LETTERS

FROM

MINORCA;

DESCRIBING THE

CONSTITUTION, GOVERNMENT, PRODUCE, ANTIQUITIES, and NATURAL HISTORY,

OF THAT

ISLAND;

WITH AN ACCURATE

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Town, Harbour, and Fortifications,

OF

MAHON:

AND THE

TRADE, CUSTOMS, AND MANNERS,

OF THE

MINORQUINS.

Illustrated with a CORRECT MAP.

DUBLIN:
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M DCC LXXXII.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A CORRECT MAP of the ISLAND of MINORCA, —by— IOHN ARMSTRONG Esq.

A Scale of English Miles.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Cap de Sonsrider
Punta des Curbrais
Cap den Nate
Cala Morel
Fontenellas
Cap de Toro
Bufrius
Cala Caldere
Cala Larabo
Cap de Soleire
Arenal de Bini Molla
Cap de Cavalaria
Arenal de Tirant
PORT FORNELLES
Cap de Pantine
San Salamo
Conolla
Sonse
Bini Atrama
TERMINO
Torre del Ram
Ciudadella
Se Mudiana
S.t Antonio
Elupes
Ciudadella Harbour
Ses Angaxas
Rafel den Morra
THE
Cova Perella
S.t Andria
DE
Rafel den Morra
TERMINO
Torre Francade
Son Olivas
Son Otwart
Son Jouit Son Joan
CIUDADELA
Soña Parets
Son Marquet
Cap der Touch
Son Tora
Platges de Son Saura
Cala Torqueta
Cala Macaroia
S.t Caldana
Cala Tribulge
Saleria
Cavalaria
Athalaia
Cap de Pantine
S.ta Agata
Se Boval
Old de Setera
Ne de Genovasa
Bella Mirada
Punta de Pons
Cala Pons
de Adaia
Lucatx
Adaia
Cala Morena
es Pou dau Caldas
Ses Fontelas
Fererias
NEW
Els Orts
Mercadal
Moli
Serra
DE
Mount Toro
Cap de Taurita
Bini Marsoc
FERERIAS
DE
Capi Fort
Cap de Mofena vivas
Se Ubarda
Son Moreda Bax
Se Mola
MERCADAL
Mongofra
Catarina
Isla de Colomba
Son Carabafsa
Bini Atau
S.t Puig
Se Bufferas
Se Galara
Bini Eumes
Son Blanc
Alaior
S.t Paume
Palafanque
Riu de Son Bou
Son Bau
TERMINO
ROAD
Bini Arroga
TERMINO
Se Pasquida
Lluc Aſaldent
Cutana Vell
El Gendaret
DE
Rafel Colom
Cala
ALEIOR
S.t Antonio
Cap Negra
Toraubut Nau
Monple
Calen Port
Mahon
S.ta Gracia
Cap Mola
Athalaia
Bini Calaf
DE
Bini Amp
Calas Covas
Loc Nou Bini Fadet
S.t Philips
ENTRANCE of MAHON HARB.
S.t Stephens Cove
Sangofam
Bini Parrel
es Canutelles
Bini Becca Vell
Cala Bini Burax
MAHON
Cala de Rafelet
Torre de Bini Sefui
Atalaya Grofa
Cala de Alcafa
Cala Bini Sefta
Cala Bini Bini
Cala Bini Acolla
Laire de Mahon

Published by Peter Wilson in Dublin. 1756.

PREFACE.

IN the Beginning of the Year 1738, when a War with *Spain* ſeemed to be on the point of breaking out, I was ordered to my Duty in the Iſland of *Minorca*. I had not been long there, before I had acquired a competent Skill in their Language, to enable me to converſe with the Natives; and as our Diſcourſe generally turned on the Hiſtory, the Government, and the Produce of the Country, it excited in me an irreſiſtible Curioſity to inform myſelf in theſe Particulars, from the beſt Authorities I ſhould be able to procure.

THE firſt Book that fell in my Way was *Dameto*'s Hiſtory of the *Balearick* Kingdom. It is wrote in the *Caſtilian* Tongue, and was printed in a ſmall Folio Volume, at *Palma*, in the Iſland of *Majorca*, in the Year 1633. This Author was the Hiſtoriographer of that Iſland, and is ſo much taken up in the Events that particularly concern it, that he furniſhed me with little matter for my Information in the Hiſtory of *Minorca*.

THE Hiſtory of *Vincente Mut* was the next Book I conſulted. He was Hiſtoriographer and Engineer of *Majorca*; and his Work, tho' it gave me more Satisfaction than that of *Dameto* had done, yet is it equally defective in the Particulars I ſought after.

I THEN proceeded to *Mariana*'s Hiſtory of *Spain*, but was ſtill diſappointed in my Expectations; for he ſays very little of our Iſland, or indeed of the reſt of the other Iſlands, which, with this, compoſed the *Balearick* Kingdom.

I TURNED over a great many other *Spaniſh* Books with no better Succeſs; at laſt I determined to compile ſuch Facts as I had taken the Pains to extract from the two Hiſtories of *Dameto* and *Mut*, and to work them up, with whatever I was able to procure among the moſt intelligent of the *Minorquins*, into a firſt Draught of the Civil-Hiſtory of the Iſland, with Intention to add, improve, and alter it, as any authentick Materials came afterwards into my Poſſeſſion.

I HAVE hitherto made no Mention of the Hiſtory of the *Balearick* Iſlands, printed in *Octavo* in *London*, *A. D.* 1716. It is only a Tranſlation of ſome Part of *Dameto* and *Mut*, and was of no Uſe to me, as I had the Originals before me.

MY

My next Care was to throw together all the Information I was able to procure concerning the Conſtitution and Government of *Minorca*, which by the Aſſiſtance of my Friends I afterwards enlarged and corrected: When no more Materials offered themſelves, I reduced it to the Order in which it ſtands in the following Work.

I have ever thought it a uſeful and entertaining Study, to enquire into the Trade and Manufactures of a Country, and to note down whatever was excellent or defective in either; from hence a valuable Leſſon is learned, of imitating the one, or avoiding the other. I therefore applied myſelf to underſtand the foreign Commerce of the *Minorquins*, and conſidered the Manufactures they raiſed from their native Commodities, with the Attention they deſerved.

Upon a nearer View, I diſcovered with Aſtoniſhment and Concern, that theſe poor People trifled away their Time in childiſh Amuſements, and neglected almoſt every Advantage of their Climate and Situation, and were contented to import a thouſand Neceſſaries, and twice the Number of Superfluities, from foreign Countries, for which they paid ready Money. This Diſcovery raiſed an honeſt Indignation in me, which frequently broke out in my Converſation with ſome

of the moſt ſenſible of the *Minorquins*; and I fear I have not been able to keep it wholly out of that Part of the Hiſtory where this Subject is particularly treated.

THUS far I had gone, before I conceived the Deſign of giving a topographical Deſcription of *Minorca*. This I afterwards perfected, viſiting every Place, and contriving to make all my Excurſions, and Parties of Pleaſures with my Friends, ſubſervient to my Deſign.

ON theſe Occaſions I never failed to collect whatever could be of Uſe to me in giving an Idea, ſuch as I was able to give, of the Natural Hiſtory of the Iſland. I made indeed a conſiderable Collection of Foſſils; but thoſe I never pretended to diſtribute into their proper Claſſes, until Dr. *Hill*'s Book appeared. If I had had ſo uſeful a Guide, while I was upon the Spot, this Part of my Work would have been more worthy the Peruſal of the Publick.

THE Animal and Vegetable Kingdoms were no leſs the Objects of my Enquiry. I confeſs I have not treated thoſe Subjects eitheir as a Naturaliſt or a Botaniſt, having in general confined myſelf to ſuch of both Kinds as moſt raiſed my Curioſity, or were of the greateſt Uſe, for the Suſtenance of Life, or for carrying on and extending the Commerce of the Natives.

My Acquaintance with the *Minorquins* enabled me to draw a Character of them, ſuch

ſuch as I ſtill think a juſt one; and, all Things conſidered, I believe they have no Reaſon to be aſhamed of the Figure they make in my Hiſtory.

THAT the Work might not be imperfect, I added to the reſt an Account of the Antiquities that are ſtill obſervable in the Iſland. Of theſe, the *Cairn*, and *Heathen-Altar*, have a particular Deſcription beſtowed on them.

IN the firſt Sketch of the Topography, I made an exact Deſcription of the Fortifications of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle; but when I came to conſider, that ſuch a Deſcription, coming from one of my Profeſſion, might poſſibly be attended with Conſequences that it were much better to prevent, I changed it to what it now is, a general Idea of thoſe Works; a Conduct, I believe, that will eaſily be forgiven me.

I HOPE Brigadier *Offarrel* will excuſe my inſcribing the Book to him, without his having any previous Knowlege of my Intention: I have ſo many Obligations to him, that I could not think of making the Compliment, if it be one, to any other Perſon.

I HAD made ſeveral Remarks on the Weather, and on the Diſeaſes of the Country: But I am very agreeably prevented from expoſing myſelf on theſe Heads, on which my learned Friend, Mr. *Clegborn*, has lately publiſhed a very uſeful Book. If that ingenious Gentleman had extended his Plan

to

to the Hiſtory and Topography, the Trade and Government of the Iſland, and been a little more copious on its Natural Hiſtory, the Publick would never have ſeen any Thing of mine on a Subject, for which he is ſo much better qualified.

If any ſhould enquire, why the Publication of my Book has been ſo long deferred, they may pleaſe to be informed, that while my Health and Strength enabled me to do my Duty, I had no Leiſure to beſtow on Things of this Kind. For upwards of two Years paſt indeed, the Gout has kept me ſo cloſe a Priſoner, that I was glad to employ the ſhort precarious Intervals of Eaſe in putting the laſt Hand to my Collections. And this ſerved to divert the Gloomineſs of my Reflections, and to ſoften the Rigours of a tedious Confinement.

Such as the Book is, I here offer it to the Reader. If he is a candid one, he will make every reaſonable Allowance. If he is otherwiſe, he will be pleaſed that I have furniſhed him ſo many Opportunities of gratifying his Spleen, in finding Fault.

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THE

THE HISTORY OF THE *Iſland of* MINORCA.

LETTER I.

SIR, MINORCA, 3 *June*, 1740.

YOUR obliging Letter of the 2d of *February* did not reach me before yeſterday, and I could wiſh that for the future you would write by Poſt, that I may have the Pleaſure of hearing from you with more Certainty and Expedition than by theſe tedious Ships, which ſometimes wait whole Months for a Convoy, before they can ſafely begin their Voyage.

The Taſk you enjoin me of giving you ſome Account of the Iſland of *Minorca*, you prepared me to expect, when at our parting

in *London*, you adviſed me from my very firſt Arrival here, carefully to examine all the Remains of Antiquity, and the natural Curioſities that were to be found; to deſcribe the Towns and Harbours; to ſearch into the Hiſtory, Antiquity, and preſent State of the Country; to take Notice of the Tempers and Cuſtoms of the People, and obſerve their Methods in Agriculture, Trade and Manufactures; and laſtly, to give you an Idea of the Natural Hiſtory of the Iſland, with whatever was obſervable in the Foſſil, Vegetable, and Animal Kingdoms. All this I have performed to the beſt of my Judgment, and my Collections for theſe two Years paſt compoſe a Pile of Papers ſufficient to terrify me when I think of reviſing and putting them in Order.

I could ſtart another Objection to this Undertaking, beſides the Tedioufneſs and Difficulty. You have at preſent a much better Opinion of me than I deſerve, and it is poſſible what I am going to do may diſpoſe you to think worſe of me than I would have you: Conſider the Riſque, and then put ſome Value on my Friendſhip, that will not ſuffer me to refuſe you any Thing you aſk. Without further Preface therefore, or Apology, I will proceed to give your Curioſity all the Gratification in my Power.

The Iſland of *Minorca* lies in the *Mediterranean* Sea, about ſixty Leagues to the ſouthward of the coaſt of *Catalonia* in *Spain*.

In

In its Neighbourhood are *Majorca*, *Yvica* and *Formentera*, which, together with this, conſtituted the antient Kingdom of *Majorca*. The Latitude of *Port-Mahon* is 39° 40′ North.

It is ſcarcely poſſible to conſider the Map of this Iſland, without obſerving how far the Weather has by Degrees influenced the Figure of its Out-Line. As the northerly Winds are the moſt frequent and the moſt violent of this Country, thoſe Parts of the Coaſt that are the moſt expoſed to their Rage, are cut and indented into a prodigious variety of Creeks and Inlets; while thoſe of a ſoutherly Aſpect are infinitely more even and regular, and every where ſhew the gentle Effects of a more temporate Expoſure. It is from the ſame Cauſe that the Mountain-Pines are ſtunted and withered in great Numbers, and even thoſe that thrive beſt make all their vigorous Shoots, and produce their Cones on the Side that is beſt ſheltered from thoſe bluſtering Enemies, from which they incline their Trunks, and as it were ſtretch out their Arms to the mild ſouthern Winds for Protection.

Minorca is upwards of thirty-three Miles long, and varies in Breadth from ten to thirteen Miles and more. It is nearly of the ſame Bigneſs as the Iſle of *Wight*, and contains 236 ſquare Miles, 151,040 ſquare Acres, and twenty ſeven thouſand ſouls, ſo

that there are five Acres and an half to every head.

The Rent of all the Lands has been computed at Forty-three thouſand, five hundred and ninety-ſix *Livres*, which make, in *Sterling* Money, Six thouſand, five hundred, and thirty-nine Pounds, and eight Shillings.

To this muſt be added that Part of the Rent which is paid in Kind, amounting to Seven thouſand and twenty-one *Quarteras* of Wheat, and One hundred and four of Barley, worth together about Two thouſand, ſix hundred Pounds *Sterling*.

Theſe two Sums, added together, make Nine thouſand, one hundred and thirty-nine Pounds *Sterling*, the annual Value of all the Lands in the Iſland of *Minorca*.

There are Three thouſand and eighty-nine Houſes in the whole Iſland; and they have been thus computed: In the *Termino* of *Mahon* Four hundred and two; in the *Termino* of *Alaior* Seven hundred and ſixteen; in the United *Termino's* of *Mercadal* and *Fererias* One Thouſand and eighty-one; and in the *Termino* of *Ciudadella* Eight hundred and ninety.

The *Minorquins* do not lie on Feather-Beds, but on hard Mattreſſes, and indeed theſe are more proper for the Climate, for which Reaſon we alſo uſe them.

Their Bedſteads are much higher than ours, that they may the better come to ſweep under them, to keep as free as poſſible from

Buggs

Buggs and Fleas, which abound here beyond Imagination.

The Ladies make no Scruple to imitate the *French* Faſhion, of enlivening a ſallow Complexion with Paint; though this is far from being an univerſal Practice among them.

They are in general very ſparing in their Diet, and few of them, except ſuch as have been every way debauched, ever drink Wine, or Strong-Waters. The moſt abandoned of the Sex are baniſhed to the worſt Parts of the Iſland, and ſometimes out of it.

As to the Men, their Temperance is, in all Probability, no more than the Conſequence of their Poverty, as their Poverty is viſibly the Conſequence of their Sloth; for we have Opportunities now and then of obſerving, that when they are with us, they eat heartily of the beſt that is laid before them, and drink freely of every kind of Liquor that is offered them.

The *Minorquins* call the Eaſt-Wind *Levante*, and the Weſt *Ponente*; the South they call *Vent de Barbaria*, as the *Romans* called the Weſt-South-Weſt Wind *Africus*, from the Country from whence it blew.

When the Wind blows from the Mountains of *Majorca*, which are covered with Snow for a good Part of the Winter, we are glad to come near a Fire; and the Cold is certainly the more ſenſible to an *Engliſh* Conſtitution, after our Bodies have been ſoftened,

and made tender by the great Heats in Summer.

There was a good deal of Snow fell here one year, but it melted as faſt as it fell. It never lies here; and Ice is ſo great a Rarity, that many old People of the Natives have never ſeen any. I ſaw a little in a Wood near *Alaior*, in the ſame year, which was ſoon gone again.

The Summer Nights are ſo exceſſive hot, that we can ſcarcely bear a Sheet over us; and we are obliged to keep our Windows ſhut, for the Night Air is very dangerous at that Seaſon. There is a gentle Breeze an Hour or two before and after Noon, that tempers the Air, ſo as to make it tolerable.

I think the *Minorquins* are greater Bigots than their Neighbours on the Continent.

They entertain the higheſt Veneration for the Saints; and the holy Virgin is not addreſſed by them with greater Reverence than they pay to St. *Anthony* of *Padua*, and ſeveral others.

The Caſe was much the ſame in *England*, before the Reformation, as Biſhop *Burnet* informs us; for at *Chriſt*'s Altar, in the Cathedral Church of *Canterbury*, there was offered in one Year no more than Three Pounds, Two Shillings and Six Pence; at that of the Virgin Sixty-three Pounds, Five Shillings and Six Pence; whilſt St. *Thomas à Becket* had the full Sum of Eight hundred and Thirty-two Pounds offered at his Altar.

The

The Difference lies only in the different Circumſtances, as to the Wealth of the two Countries; for it is beyond a Doubt, that the Faith and Zeal of the *Minorquins* continue to this Day at as high a Pitch as that of our Fore-Fathers could ever be raiſed to.

MINORCA is 62 Miles in Compaſs, and is divided into 4 *Terminos*, the *Termino* of *Mahon*, the *Termino* of *Alaior*, the united *Terminos* of *Mercadal* and *Fererias*, and the *Termino* of *Ciudadella*.

The *Termino* of *Mahon* is bounded on three Sides by the Sea, has the *Termino* of *Alaior* to the north-weſtward, and joins that of *Mercadal* a little more to the northward. Its greateſt Length is 14 Miles, and it is above 8 Miles over, where at the broadeſt. This *Termino* contains about 13,000 Inhabitants, and its chief Town is *Mahon*.

The *Termino* of *Alaior* is waſhed by the Sea to the ſouth-weſtward, and borders on the *Termino* of *Mahon* to the eaſtward; to the northward is that of *Mercadal*, and the *Termino* of *Fererias* lies to the north-weſtward. Its greateſt Length is upwards of 8 Miles, and it is about 7 broad. It contains about 5000 Souls; its chief Town *Alaior*.

The *Termino* of *Mercadal* is above 12 Miles long, and more than 10 broad. It has the Sea on the north Side, and the *Termino* of *Mahon* to the South-Eaſt; that of *Alaior* joins it to the ſouth-weſt-ward, and the *Termino* of *Fererias* (to which it is united) lies to the

weſtward. Its chief Town is *Mercadal*, and the moſt noted Places within its Diſtrict are *Mount-Toro*, *Fornelles*, and *Sancta Agatha*. It may contain about 1700 Inhabitants.

The *Termino* of *Fererias* (to which that of *Mercadal* is united) is a long narrow Stripe, extending from Sea to Sea quite acroſs the Iſland, which is here but little more than 10 Miles over. It is ſcarcely any where more than 4 Miles broad. It is bounded to the Eaſtward by the *Termino* of *Mercadal*, and that of *Alaior*, and the *Termino* of *Ciudadella* joins it to the weſtward. Its chief Town is *Fererias*; and its Number of Inhabitants does not exceed 1126.

The *Termino* of *Ciudadella* takes up the weſt End of the Iſland. Its greateſt Length is the ſame as that of the *Termino of Fererias*, which joins it to the eaſtward, and its Breadth, which in ſome Places is leſs than 5 Miles, enlarges itſelf in others to upwards of 8. The Sea waſhes it on the North, the Weſt, and the South Sides. It contains about 7000 Inhabitants, and has *Ciudadella* for its Capital.

The Word *Termino*, which I have been obliged to repeat ſo often in this Letter, is derived from the *Latin Terminus*, a Bound, Limit, or Border; ſo the *Terminalia* were Feaſts inſtituted by the *Romans* in Honour of *Terminus*, the Guardian of Boundaries and Land-Marks: This Feſtival was celebrated at *Rome* on the 22d or 23d of *February* every Year, when Cakes and Fruit were offered to the

the God, and ſometimes Sheep and Swine. He was repreſented under the Figure of an old Man's Head and Trunk to the Middle, without Arms, which they erected on a kind of Pedeſtal that diminiſhed downwards to the Baſe, under which they uſually buried a Quantity of Charcoal, as they thought it to be incorruptible in the Earth; and it was criminal by their Laws, and regarded as an Act of Impiety to this Divinity, to remove or deface any of the *Termini*. Nay they viſited them at ſet Times, as the Children in *London* are accuſtomed to perambulate the Limits of their Pariſh, which they call proceſſioning; a Cuſtom poſſibly derived to them from the *Romans*, who were ſo many Ages in Poſſeſſion of the Iſland of *Great-Britain*. By a *Termino* then (in the Senſe we underſtand it here) is implied a Part of the Iſland divided from the reſt by known Bounds, as the Counties are in *England*.

This is the general Diviſion of the Iſland of *Minorca*. In my future Letters you ſhall have an Account of what is moſt obſervable in all the *Terminos*, of which I ſhall treat in the ſame Order I have named them. Your preſent Trouble I will cut ſhort here, but not until I have aſſured you, that

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER II.

SIR, MINORCA, 19 *July*, 1740.

I HAVE often thought that a Traveller ſhould ſeize the firſt Opportunity to note down the Things that ſtrike his Imagination; whereas if he defers it until the Objects are grown familiar to his Sight, his Obſervations will be of little Entertainment; but while the Impreſſion is freſh and lively, his Accounts will be intereſting, and his Deſcriptions warm and animated.

Having now reviewed my Collections and Journals, and digeſted their Contents in my Head, I mean ſo far as they relate to the Subject of this Letter, I proceed in acquitting my ſelf of the Promiſe contained in my laſt.

Mahon is the Capital of the *Termino* of the ſame Name, and of the whole Iſland, ſince it has been in the Poſſeſſion of the *Engliſh*, who removed the Courts of Juſtice hither from *Ciudadella*, making it the Seat of Government. To this they were induced by its Situation near the principal Harbour, as well as its Neighbourhood to St *Philip*'s Caſtle, the only Fortreſs of any Conſideration in the Country.

It was antiently ſurrounded with a Wall, which is ſtill entire in moſt Places; but within theſe thirty Years the Buildings having diſperſed themſelves to a conſiderable Extent without

without the Walls, at this Time compoſe ſeveral Streets in the Suburbs, which do not yield in Elegance and Regularity to any that are within the Town. *Mahon* is built on an elevated Situation, and the Aſcent from the Harbour, over which it ſeems to hang, is ſteep and difficult: Hence the Proſpect is extended, and the Air rendered more pure and wholeſome; neither are the Flies (and eſpecially that very troubleſome Kind the *Muſquita*, or *Gnat*) ſuch a Peſt here all the hot Weather as in the other Towns of the Iſland.

The Buildings are univerſally of Freeſtone, and either covered with Tiles, or flat-roofed and terraced; which Terrace is the Matter of which their Floors are likewiſe made, reſembling thoſe ſo well known of late Years in *London* by the Name of *Venetian-Floors*: But the Maſons here are ſo expert at their Buſineſs, and the Materials that enter into the Compoſition of the Terrace ſo reaſonable, and Labour it ſelf ſo cheap, that they are executed with greater Firmneſs and Expedition than our Workmen can perform them, and for one tenth Part of the Expence.

Their Rooms are generally vaulted with the ſame Freeſtone (of ſix, or four, and ſometimes of only two Inches thick, according to the Weight they are intended to ſuſtain) and theſe Vaults are the ſame with what our Artificers call *Groins*, ſpringing from the four Angles of the Room. The Cavities, or *Spandrils*, are levelled, and another Terrace laid for

for the upper Floor; and then if there is to be a flat Roof, another Groin is turned, levelled and terraced as before: and thus all is finiſhed by the Maſon without Timber, which ſaves a great deal of Charge in a poor Country, where that Commodity bears an exceſſive Price, and alſo frees the Inhabitants from the Terrors of an Element which makes ſuch dreadful Ravage in many of the other Parts of the World: And it muſt be allowed at the ſame time, that the Natives of *Minorca* have no ſmall Obligation to the Mildneſs of their Climate on this Account, ſince they are not often under a Neceſſity of lighting a Fire, except for culinary Uſes, or in the Shops of ſuch Artificers whoſe Trades require it, of whom too the Number is but ſmall.

I cannot help mentioning another Particular concerning theſe Groins. The Maſons are no way beholden to Centers of Wood and Boards for the Truth and Exactneſs of their Work; for having firſt faſhioned a Stone with the niceſt Care, (the horizontal Joints of which being each of them formed into a *Radius* to the Center of the Arch) they place one of them in the Situation where it is to remain, and prop it with a Pole: When they find it lies as they would have it, they point all the Joints with Mortar, only leaving a ſmall Hole at the Top to receive the *Guiſh*. This Cement they put into an Earthen Pitcher, having in it a proper Quantity of Water, and then ſtir it well about: a violent

lent Ebullition enſues, and then they pour it in at the Hole. In an Inſtant it diſperſes itſelf every where to the Thickneſs of a Crown-Piece in the void Space of the Joints, hardening and ſetting throughout in a Moment. They now remove the Prop, and thus proceed on every Side upwards, until the Key compleats the whole Groin.

But if the Houſe is to be roofed with Timber, a ſlight Arch is turned a-croſs the Room, and run up to a Level, to do the Office of a Ridge, and ſupport the Ends of the Rafters, which are generally crooked, knotty, and unequal, of the Growth of the Country, which produces but few Trees that deſerve the Name of Timber.

One End of the Rafter reſts on the Top of the Side-Wall, and the other lies on the Ridge. I have never obſerved any Beams to be extended athwart the Houſe to tie the Feet of the Rafters together, and yet the Roofs being light and the Walls ſtrong, theſe laſt are never thruſt from their Perpendicular. The Rafters uſually lie at about two Feet aſunder.

A-croſs theſe Rafters the Reeds or Canes of the Iſland are bound cloſe together. Theſe Canes are of the ſame kind with thoſe that are imported into *England* for the uſe of the Woollen-Manufactures, and laſt a long Time.

The Tiles uſed here are of one common Form, which is readily conceived by ſuppo-

ſing

ſing an earthen Tube, wider at one End than at the other, cut lengthwiſe through the Center, by which Section two Tiles are produced. The concave Sides of the Tiles being turned up, they are laid cloſe to each other on the Canes, well bedded in tempered Clay, the upper lapping over the lower one about two Inches; for which Purpoſe the narrow End is placed next the Eves, and the broader one upwards. Over theſe another Courſe is laid; the concave Sides of theſe are turned down, and alſo lap over; ſo that they cover all the Joints of the undermoſt Courſe, and being well pointed with Mortar, make a very good Covering. The Roofs have a great Slope given them, not leſs than what is called the *Pediment-Pitch*, which is not to be wondered at in a Country where they rarely ſee any Snow in ſeven Years together.

Their Freeſtone is pretty much like the *Bath-Stone*, both in Colour and Hardneſs: Like that, it yields freely to the Impreſſion of the Ax or Saw, when it is firſt drawn from the Quarry, and by ſtanding in the Air acquires a ſolid Cruſt that ſufficiently ſecures it againſt the Weather of the Climate. It abounds all over the Iſland; and far from being under a Neceſſity of ſearching for it, or digging to great Depths to come at it, they find it open to the Day in moſt Places. It is generally raiſed in what they call *Cantoons*, each two Feet long and one ſquare, when wrought, that is a *double-Cube* of a Foot.

The

The Quarriers firſt mark out the *Cantoon*, a little larger than the Size, to admit of hewing; then with their Ax they cut a Channel a Foot deep, and as narrow as may be, at the inner Side, and at each End, ſo that it adheres to the *Stratum* at the Bottom only; then they apply their Wedges, and ſo forcibly rend it from its Bed. The *Cantoons* are uſually delivered on the Spot for Two Shillings and Six Pence the Dozen, well ſquared and ſmoothed with an Ax. In preparing the Cantoon-Stone, the Maſon cuts a Notch in the upper and lower Sides, and in both the Ends, of every Stone, that the Guiſh may enter, and form a Cord, as it were, of the Bigneſs of one's Finger, to bind all together.

The Country affords great Plenty of excellent Lime-Stone, and they build their Kilns for the moſt Part in the Woods, for the Conveniency of being near their Fuel.

The Arches of their Doors are ſtrongly built, the *Vouſſoirs*, or Arch-Stones, being four or five Feet long, and ſometimes more.

Their Pits of Guiſh are no where at ſuch a Diſtance as conſiderably to advance the Price of that valuable Cement, which is a greyiſh *Gypſum*, moderately hard, and poſſeſſing a ſmall Degree of Tranſparence, more eſpecially in the Maſſes that incline to Whitiſhneſs.

The *Cavaliers* and the moſt wealthy of the *Burghers*, build their Houſes on two or three Sides of a ſquare Court, and ſome of them on all

all the Sides: Theſe are of two Stories; the Ground-Floor contains the Offices, and the Servants Lodging; the Principal-Story is taken up by the Maſter and his Family, and the Upper-Floor is uſed as a Granary. For as the Farmers here pay great Part of their Rents in Kind, the Landlord lays up his Wheat and Barley in his own Houſe. The Walls of theſe larger Houſes ſeldom exceed the Thickneſs of a ſingle *Cantoon*; thoſe of the poorer Tradeſmen and Labourers, which do not often riſe more than ten or twelve Feet high, are of half, or it may be two thirds of that Thickneſs, and yet are ſufficiently ſtrong and durable. Linings of Wainſcot, and Tapeſtry-Hangings are equally unknown here. The better Sort content themſelves with Plaiſtering and White-waſhing their Houſes on the Inſide, as the poorer People whiten them only. The Stairs are always of Stone, and generally very narrow and uneaſy.

I have hitherto ſpoke only of the Dwellings of Particulars; I come now to their Publick Buildings. Theſe are to be conſidered as the weak Efforts of an indigent People to adorn their Country; and if this Allowance is made, they will not be found void of Embelliſhment or Magnificence. The great Church of *Mahon* makes no contemptible Appearance, even to ſuch as have obſerved our beſt *Gothick* Churches in *England*, where I could name two or three Cathedrals, though this be none, that

that are far from ſurpaſſing it, either in Greatneſs or Decoration. † It may be ſaid of their Churches in general, that they are worthy of being put to a better Uſe than to be made the Scene of thoſe pious Fopperies that are daily exhibited in them.

They exclude the Sun in a great Meaſure from their Churches, and ſupply the Abſence of his Light by a Number of ſmall Lamps fixed in Sconces and Luſtres, that diſperſe a glimmering Twilight, inſpiring the Congregation with a religious Awe, of no ſmall Advantage to their ſpiritual Guides. Thus cunning Linen-Drapers darken their Shops, to exempt their Wares from the nice Scrutiny of their Cuſtomers: Thus Jugglers act their Tricks by a doubtful Light, the better to impoſe on their Spectators, and avoid Detection. Yet hence theſe Churches derive a Coolneſs that renders them very ſupportable in the hotter Weather of this Climate.

It is eaſy to diſcover that this Cuſtom of ſhutting the Day-Light out of their Churches is not quite ſo antient as the Edifices themſelves; for I have obſerved the Work, with which the Windows are walled up, to be ſomewhat different from the reſt, and apparently of a later Date. You ſhould be told that their Churches have as many Windows as ours have, only they are all ſtopped, except one or two of the upper ones.

† They have lately ſet about rebuilding this Church.

The

The *Franciſcan* Convent, that of the *Auguſtins*, and the Nunnery of *Sancta-Clara* are rather large than elegant Fabricks; yet they are convenient enough, and have each of them a Chapel prettily ſet off with Carved-Work not unartfully wrought.

The Governor's Houſe is a ſtraggling irregular Pile, conſiſting of ſeveral Apartments, erected at different Times, and in as many various Stiles of Building. The *Suite* of Rooms built ſome Years ſince are well enough calculated for the State of the Inhabitant. Governors Houſes are apt to be extreamly ſubject to this Irregularity and Patchwork, each inclining to make ſome Addition in his own Time, either to enlarge his Conveniencies, or to augment the Splendor of his Dwelling: And as this is uſually done in Neglect of the Symetry of the Whole, to comply with his own bad Taſte, or for want of a good one in his Operator, it is highly poſſible it may not pleaſe him when it is finiſhed. But a great Man, that ſnuffs the *Barbary* Air, and is inveſted with the Power of obliging, or of mortifying the People under his Command, in Proportion to their Ductility or Untractableneſs, can go on again, without Oppoſition or Controul, until he is accommodated to his Humour.

There is generally a Regiment quartered at *Mahon*. The Officers have a Houſe aſſigned to each of them, and the Private-Men are diſperſed in thoſe of the leſſer *Burghers*, which

are

are converted into Barracks for their Uſe. The Proprietors, who are obliged to make Room for theſe unacceptable Tenants, receive a ſmall Rent from the Magiſtrates, and accommodate themſelves elſewhere as they can. The Officers and Soldiers have a Proportion of Wood and Oil provided for them by the Town. A Subaltern's Allowance of Oil is ſufficient for one Lamp, and his Wood, with very good Management will boil his Tea-Kettle two Mornings in the Week.

The Streets of this Town, which are generally very narrow, are none of them paved. The native Rock appears almoſt every where, and in ſome Places is very uneven and troubleſome to paſs.

At the Foot of the Hill on which *Mahon* ſtands is a fine Wharf of great Extent in Length, and proportionably broad. The whole weſtern End is ſet apart for the Uſe of His Majeſty's Ships, and here all Manner of Naval-Stores (except Maſts, which are kept on the oppoſite Side of the Harbour) are depoſited in convenient Magazines, to be in a conſtant Readineſs for careening, repairing, and ſupplying the Men of War. The Depth of Water at the Key is ſuch as enables Ships of the largeſt Size to come as near it as they have Occaſion. As there is no Tide, a Dry-Dock has never been hitherto attempted at this Place, though ſurely it would not be a Work of ſuch mighty Difficulty as it is uſually repreſented, and yet

be

be of infinite Service if it could be accompliſhed: For the preſent Method of *heaving-down*, as practiſed here, is liable to many other Objections beſides the more obvious one of its being a dangerous Strain to the Maſts and Timbers of the Ships. But, *non noſtrum tantas* ———

The eaſtern Part of the Wharf is taken up by the Merchants, near which is the *Pratica*-Houſe, where Ships newly come into Port muſt apply, and ſhew a clean Bill of Health, before they are admitted to break Bulk.

A little out of Town, in the Way to St. *Philip*'s, ſtands a ſmall Convent of *Carmelite* Fryars, where lately a ſumptuous Edifice was begun by thoſe Fathers, but ſtopped by Order of the Government. A great Number of *Roman* Coins, Lamps, Urns, and *Lachrymatories* were diſcovered on opening for the Foundation.

From hence ſome Gentlemen amongſt us reaſon a little whimſically. They ſay theſe Antiquities prove this Spot to have been the original Site of the Town of *Mahon:* Now I cannot well comprehend how the Remains of the *Romans* come to denote a *Carthaginian* Foundation; for *Mago* is by univerſal Conſent allowed to have built the Town, and to have given it his Name. Then they ſay the *Romans* rebuilt *Mahon:* And it is very likely they might: But it is equally probable they rebuilt it on the ſame Ground where *Mago*'s Town ſtood, and that by Piecemeal, as we pull

pull down a few decayed Houſes in our Streets, and run up new ones on the ſame Spot. But if they have no better Grounds for their Opinion than theſe Remains, and the Multitude of Graves cut every where hereabouts in the Rock; theſe certainly make againſt them, and evince the Place not to have been a *Roman* Town, but a *Roman Cæmitery*, ſince by an expreſs Law of the Twelve Tables, that People were reſtrained from either *burying or burning their Dead within the City: Hominem mortuum in urbe ne ſepelito neve urito.* This Cuſtom of burying without the City Walls, was in Uſe with moſt other Nations, eſpecially with the *Greeks* and the *Jews*, as is eaſily proved if it was neceſſary.

And now, my good Friend, tell me freely, do you not ſhudder at the Length of this Letter, when you conſider that the Taſk you have engaged me in requires many others of unrelenting Tedioufneſs? If you do, blame your own Want of Diſcernment that made ſo ill a Choice; but acquit me, I beſeech you, for the Readineſs with which I ſet myſelf to work to obey your Commands.

I am ever,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LET-

LETTER III.

SIR, MINORCA, 17 *Auguſt* 1740.

ABOUT a Mile below the Town of *Mahon* is the *Engliſh-Cove*, which is the general Watering-Place for the Navy. It is plentifully ſupplied with ſweet Water, and here the Harbour is near a Mile over, almoſt its greateſt Breadth. Half a Mile lower, and about a Mile ſhort of St. *Philip*'s, lies *Bloody-Iſland*, making almoſt an equal Diviſion of the Harbour, yet leaving the greateſt Breadth and the deepeſt Water on the *Mahon* Side. Here is a capacious Hoſpital belonging to the Navy, with Lodgings for the Naval-Officer, Surgeon, and others, and a decent Apartment for the Admiral, or Commander in Chief on Occaſion. The cool Breezes of the Sea, to which this little Iſland lies open, render it a comfortable Reſidence in Summer: And though at preſent it contains no more than this ſingle Pile of Building, it could eaſily admit of many others, its Area containing, as I judge, not leſs than 12 Acres; and here the Freſhneſs of the Air, and the amuſing Proſpects of the more improved Spots, broke here and there with Rocks and Precipices, and intermixed with ſcattering Houſes; and the Caſtle and Town of St. *Philip*'s, the Fort of *Philipet*, and the Signal-Houſe at *Cape-Mola*, at a pictureſque Diſtance; with the moving Scene all round on the Water; theſe,

I ſay,

I ſay, all together, compoſe a Situation highly capable of being improved into one of the moſt delightful Retirements for a contemplative Mind that is to be found in this Part of the World.

This Hoſpital was built when Sir *John Jennings* was Commander in Chief of the Fleet in the *Mediterranean*, *Anno* 1711, in lieu of an old one that was inconveniently ſituated. Mr. *Griffith*, who was at the ſame Time Agent to the Commiſſioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen, made the Contract for the Building, by Sir *John*'s Order, for the Sum of 3600*l.*

The *Oyſter-Cove* lies almoſt oppoſite to *Bloody-Iſland* on the *Mahon* Side, where the *Spaniards* dive for that delicious Shell-Fiſh in 10 or 12 Fathoms Water. This Cave (or *Cove*, as they are univerſally called in this Country) is ſcooped out of the Rock, and as it has a North-Eaſt Aſpect, and is conſequently ſhaded from the Sun, it is a pleaſing Receptacle for a Company of Friends in a Summer's Afternoon. I need not inſiſt, that as the diving for Oyſters can only be practiſed in Summer Time, the Oyſters are eaten to great Diſadvantage; yet though they are not ſo fat and well fed as ſome of ours are in *England*, they have a pleaſant Flavour that highly recommends them.

When you have engaged a Couple of *Spaniards* before-hand, you proceed by Water to the Scene, where their Method of diving is thus:

thus: One of the Fellows prepares without Loſs of Time for the Adventure, and ſtripping himſelf ſtark naked, takes his Poſt at the Prow of the Boat; then faſtening a ſmall Hammer to his right Arm, and committing himſelf to the Protection of his favourite Saint, with much croſſing, and not a little Apprehenſion, plunges into the Deep. The Anxiety of his Comrade, whoſe Turn is to be next, is viſible enough in his Countenance; but it does not laſt long; for the Diver, having wrenched as many Oyſters from the Rocks, with his Hammer, as he is well able to bring up, or, which oftener happens, having ſtaid at the Bottom as long as his Breath will hold, ſprings upwards, and reviſits the Day. His left Arm, on which the Oyſters are piled up, is inſtantly unloaded of its Freight; he is helped into the Boat, and comforted with a Dram, and then the other makes himſelf ready to follow his Example.

I muſt not omit to mention a red Oyſter, which is frequently brought up with the other kind. The *Spaniards* eat it as a Dainty, and we do not grudge it them.

As we row from hence to St. *Philip*'s, we leave the *Quarentine* Iſland on the left Hand: It is leſs than the former, and much nearer to the *Cape-Mola* Shore. Within this little Iſland Veſſels arriving from *Barbary* and the *Levant*, when thoſe Parts are viſited by the Plague, are obliged to perform the uſual

Quarentine.

Quarentine. The leaſt Remiſſneſs in a Matter of ſo ſerious a Nature would be wholly unpardonable. The Havock made by the Plague at *Marſeilles* is not to be ſuddenly forgot, and *Algiers* is ſeldom a Year without it; and the Neighbourhood of theſe Places, and the frequent touching of our homeward-bound *Levanters* here, are Conſiderations that keep up a conſtant Vigilance and Caution in theſe People. It happened lately under my own Obſervation, that two *Algerine* Gallies (at a Time when the Plague raged in their Capital) having been denied Entrance at ſeveral Ports, and beat from others, forced into this Harbour under the Fire of our Batteries, preferring any Riſque in Port to the Certainty of ſtarving at Sea. But the *Turks*, having been a long Time on a Cruiſe, happened to be free from Infection, ſo that no bad Conſequence enſued.

We come next to St. *Philip*'s Caſtle, ſituate at the Entrance of *Mahon*-Harbour, to which it is the Key, and the principal Fortification on the Iſland. It is ſeated on a Neck of Land between *Mahon* Harbour and St. *Stephen*'s Cove, and its numerous Outworks extend themſelves to the Shore on both Sides. The Body of the Place conſiſts of 4 Baſtions and as many Curtains, ſurrounded with a deep Ditch hewn out of the ſolid Rock which furniſhed Freeſtone for the Walls. The Area is bounded on every Side with Buildings, conſiſting of the Governor's

Houſe, a Chapel, Guard-Room, Barracks, *&c.* In the Center of the Square is a Pump to ſupply the Troops with Rain-Water from a large Ciſtern, and the whole Square is well paved and kept very clean.

Over the flat Roofs of the arched Buildings is a ſpacious Rampart, affording an extenſive Proſpect to the Eye, and the Baſtions have Guns mounted on them. The Communication from the lower Area to the Top of the Rampart is by a Pair of Stairs: The Steps are about 10 Feet long, 3 Feet broad, and riſe one Foot. The lower Edge of the Step is of Freeſtone, and there the Riſe is only 3 Inches, the reſt ſlopes gently upwards, and is of common Pavement. I have been the more particular in deſcribing theſe Stairs, as they are not only of eaſy Aſcent for Men, but alſo for Mules and Aſſes carrying their Burthens on their Backs. Up theſe the Artillery People likewiſe draw their Guns when there is Occaſion; and if they did not take up ſo much Room, they would be well worth our Imitation.

The whole Body of the Place is undermined, and very ſerviceable ſubterraneous Works are contrived in the Rock, and communicate with one another wherever it is neceſſary. In one of theſe are repoſited the Remains of Captain *Philip Stanhope*, Commander of the *Milford* Ship of War, who acting on Shore as a Volunteer under his Brother General *Stanhope* at the Siege of this

Caſtle,

Caſtle, was, on the 28th Day of *September* 1708, unfortunately killed, after he had given ſignal Proofs of an undaunted Courage.

The Chapel, which is reſerved for the Service of the Church of *England*, is the leaſt adorned of any in the whole Iſland; for as the *Spaniſh* Governors conſtantly reſided at *Ciudadella*, at a remote Diſtance, it received but little Improvement in their Time; and our Governors living altogether at *Mahon*, it has been equally neglected by us. It ſtill ſerves as a Burying-Place, and an elegant *Latin* Inſcription has been lately put up here in Memory of Brigadier *Kane*, whoſe Body lies near it. Though it is pretty long, I would freely tranſcribe it for your Peruſal, if a Friend had not aſſured me that the ſame Inſcription, Word for Word, is alſo ſet up in *Weſtminſter-Abbey*, with a Buſt of the Brigadier, exactly reſembling him, done by *Ryſbrack*. This Gentleman was many Years in the Government of *Minorca*, and is univerſally acknowledged to have been one of the beſt Officers of his Age, and one of the moſt deſervedly beloved Men that ever lived. When he firſt came here, there was great Scarcity of freſh Proviſions: Goats-Fleſh indeed might be had; but there was little Beef or Mutton, and tame Fowls were a greater Rarity than the wild. Mr. *Kane* procured Numbers of Cattle and Flocks of Sheep; he had Supplies of Poultry from *France*, *Italy*,

and *Barbary*, and diſtributed them, together with great Quantities of Eggs, among the Farmers and Peaſants, ſettling a Price at which they were to be ſold, that encouraged them to ſet ſeriouſly about increaſing the Breed. The Gentleneſs of his Adminiſtration reconciled the *Minorquins* to the *Engliſh* Government; and the Troops obſerved an exact Diſcipline under ſo nice a Judge. The Roads were every where ſo narrow and ſtony, and in many Places ſo ſteep, that they were exceſſively difficult and tireſome to a Traveller: Mr. *Kane* made a noble Road, that extended, in as direct a Line as the natural Irregularity of the Country would allow, from St. *Philip*'s Caſtle, the whole Length of the Iſland, to *Ciudadella*. When that Gentleman was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of *Minorca*, under the Duke of *Argyle*, which was in the Year 1712, he firſt conceived the Deſign of making a new Road, the old one being ſcarcely paſſable. In 1713 he began to put his Project in Execution, and happily finiſhed it in the Year 1715. The greateſt Part of this Road is above thirty Feet wide. It is in general conducted in a direct Line, except where it was neceſſary to coaſt about the larger Hills, to keep as near a Level as was poſſible. The ſharp Rock was cut even, the Aſcents made eaſy and regular, hollow Places were filled up, and

and Bridges built over Moraſſes, and the Gullies, where the Land-Floods required a Paſſage to be kept open for them. When the Regiments are relieved, which generally happens in *April* or *May*, every Year, they take two Days to march to *Ciudadella*, either from *Mahon*, or from St. *Philip*'s Caſtle; halting a Night at *Marcadal*. There is but one Cart, I think, in the Iſland; but there are ſeveral Chaiſes, belonging to the Officers; a Piece of State, which the *Spaniards* have not yet thought proper to imitate. In ſhort, if the Life of Brigadier *Kane* was writ with the ſtricteſt Regard to Impartiality, it would ſeem to thoſe who knew nothing of him, to be rather a Panegyrick than a Hiſtory.

Before the Entrance of the Caſtle is a *Hornwork*, with other *Outworks* to this and the reſt of the Fronts: But it is not my purpoſe to enter into a minute Detail of all the Works that conſtitute the Strength of this Fortreſs: It would poſſibly be invidious, would certainly be tedious, ſince the bare Sight of a Plan will give you a better Notion of them than the beſt Deſcription I am able to frame, tho' I were to ſpend a Week in ſo unprofitable an Attempt.

There is a great Number of large Guns mounted towards the Entrance of the Harbour, beſides thoſe that point to the Land, which would require the Service of a vaſt many *Artillery*-People on Occaſion, as indeed

the various Works demand a very conſiderable Garriſon to diſpute them with an Enemy.

Of the utmoſt Advantage to this Place are certainly the capacious *Galleries* that are cut out of the Rock, and extend themſelves under the *Covert-Way* throughout all the Works, as I think. This was an Undertaking equally neceſſary and expenſive; for otherwiſe the People muſt have been torn to Pieces by the Splinters of Stone in Time of Action, as well thoſe off Duty, who had no Cover to ſecure them, as thoſe who were obliged to expoſe themſelves. But theſe *Subterraneans* afford Quarters and Shelter to the Garriſon, impenetrable to Shot or Shells, and not to be come at but by cutting a Way to them through the living Rock, againſt which too they are provided with a Number of *Counter-Mines*, at proper Diſtances, and in ſuch Places as by their Situation are moſt expoſed.

In the *Main-Ditch* is a ſmall *Powder-Magazine*; another much larger is under the *Covert-Way* of the Place, and there are Storehouſes ſufficient for every Occaſion, with an *Hoſpital* near St. *Stephen*'s Cove: And as a Ciſtern is obnoxious to Accidents from the *Bombs* of an Enemy, there are ſeveral Wells within the Works, and a Quantity of every Species of Proviſions is conſtantly kept up to ſupport the whole Soldiery of the Iſland in Caſe of a Siege.

On

On the Point of Land to the Eaſtward of the *Caſtle* is *Charles-Fort*, built by the *Spaniards*, and of little Conſequence, as it now ſtands. The *Grand-Battery* lies down at the Water's Edge, and has a high Stone Wall for the Protection of the Gunners, who ply their Ordnance through a long Range of *Embraſures*. This is the common Burying-Place of the Garriſon. The *Queen's Redoubt* is the moſt advanced of all the Works towards the Country on the Side where it ſtands: Between it and the Harbour are two other Works, one of them lately finiſhed. On the other Side of *St. Stephen*'s Cove is the *Marlborough*, a very chargeable Work, which took its Name from the great Man who was *Maſter-General* of the *Ordnance* not long before it was built.

I have contented my ſelf with giving you only a ſuperficial View of the Caſtle of *St. Philip*'s; and now you will naturally expect my Opinion, what Degree of Reſiſtance it is capable of, if the *Spaniards*, who are now at War with us, ſhould make a Deſcent upon the Iſland. That I may not wholly balk your Curioſity on this delicate Subject, I muſt ſay ſomewhat of the preſent Strength of our Garriſon. We have now in the Iſland five old Regiments of Foot, I. Brigadier *Read*'s; II. Lieutenant-General *Tyrrel*'s; III. the Royal Regiment of Foot of *Ireland*, commanded by Major-General *Armſtrong*; IV. Brigadier *Paget*'s, and V. Major-General

Anſtruther's. Here is alſo a Company of the Royal Regiment of *Artillery*; ſo that our whole Strength may be about Two Thouſand Four Hundred effective Men. Of theſe only one third can be put upon Duty at once, and we have a vaſt extent of Works for 800 Men to defend: Then an Allowance muſt be made for the Detachments to be drawn from theſe, for ſerving the *Platforms*, repairing the Damage done by the Enemy, and other Emergencies; beſides a conſiderable daily Abatement to be expected by the Sick, killed, and wounded, not to ſay Deſerters. Theſe things conſidered (tho' I make no Doubt, and indeed cannot doubt, of the Goodneſs of the Troops, knowing them ſo well as I do) I fear that if we were not ſuddenly relieved by our Fleet, a powerful Enemy, well provided for ſuch an Undertaking, would too ſoon make himſelf Maſter of the Place.

But it is not to be imagined that while we continue Maſters at Sea, the *Spaniards* can ever get together a ſufficient Embarkation to ſubdue *Minorca*, with ſuch Expedition and Secrecy as to eſcape the Intelligence of our Miniſtry, and the Vigilance and Interception of our Fleet. Indeed if we are to ſuppoſe a Series of Misfortunes on our Side, and Succeſſes on theirs, and the Courſe of the War ſhould, beyond all Expectation and Likelihood, give up the watry Element to their Dominion, I ſee no Remedy but that this

Iſland

Iſland muſt fall to them in the common Calamity. Yet I ſtrongly hope our King will ever be able to ſpeak of the King of Spain in the Words *Virgil* has put in the Mouth of *Neptune*.

Non illi imperium pelagi, ſævumque tridentem,
Sed mihi ſorte datum. Tenet ille immania ſaxa——

But it is now high time to allow you a-Pauſe, and indeed I have almoſt tired my Hand, tho' it be pretty well accuſtomed to Employment. I look upon it as a great Piece of good Fortune that I am able to amuſe myſelf within Doors, being doomed, for ſome time at leaſt, to a Climate where the Heats all the Summer Months are ſo violent, that a Man muſt be very unhappy who has no Reliſh but for Company, and is therefore under a perpetual Neceſſity of hunting for People as idle as himſelf, to countenance his Inſignificancy, and keep him from thinking.

I am,

with an unalterable Friendſhip,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER IV.

SIR, MINORCA, 16 *October* 1740.

THE *Araval*, or Suburb of *St. Philip*'s, conſiſts of Officers Quarters, Barracks for Soldiers, the Church, and ſome hundreds of Houſes inhabited by *Spaniards*. Since the Outworks of the Caſtle have been run out to ſuch an Extent, the *Glacis* almoſt reaches the Buildings in ſome Places; ſo that as Things at preſent ſtand, an Enemy would find theſe Houſes a convenient Shelter to favour his Approaches, and cover his Workmen in the Conſtruction of his Batteries: Wherefore the Houſes ought certainly to be forthwith cleared away, to ſuch a Diſtance every where, as to leave a ſufficient *Eſplanade* between the Village and the Fortifications. *

The Commanding-Officer of the two Regiments that are quartered here reſides in a mean Houſe on the *Little-Parade*. The reſt of the Officers are diſperſed about the Town, and moſt of them lodged at their own Expence; for the greater Part of the Quarters that were at firſt allotted them are now gone to Ruin: On this Account many Gentlemen have built themſelves Houſes, which they eaſily lett when they are ordered to any of the Out-Garriſons of the Iſland. The *great*

* This has been ſince done.

Parade

Parade is now roomy enough for reviewing and exerciſing two Battalions of Men, and is to be further enlarged and levelled, ſo as to receive a much larger Body.

Near this is the *Main-Guard*, where a Captain, a Subaltern, two Serjeants, two Corporals, two Drums and thirty-two Private-Centinels do daily Duty. The *Chief Engineer*'s Houſe ſtands at ſome Diſtance from hence, fronting the *Parade*; and though it is of a ſingular ſtile of Building, I think it convenient enough, and well adapted to the Climate, enjoying a healthy Situation and a noble Proſpect.

The *Church* is near that Part of the *Line-Wall* that is next the End of the *Great-Road* as it enters *St. Philip*'s. It is ſuitable enough to the Congregation it was built to receive, which is chiefly compoſed of indigent People, of the loweſt Rank.

The *Line-Wall* is wholly of Rough-Stone, piled up without Mortar, and extends from the Head of *St. Stephen*'s Cove quite croſs the Neck of Land to the Harbour. There is a raiſed *Banquette*, or Step, for the Men to ſtand on, and then the Wall is juſt high enough to fire over. This Wall has ſeveral *Towers* in its Range, which are of much greater Antiquity, and are placed at proper Diſtances. They are built of ſquared Free-ſtone, laid in Mortar, and run with *Guiſh*, as appears where the Work has yielded to the Impreſſions of the Weather and the Injuries

of

of Time. The *Line-Wall* was haſtily run up a little before General *Stanhope* arrived here in 1708, and is certainly of ſmall Conſequence to the preſent Strength of the Caſtle: Its principal Uſe is to prevent the Natives from bringing Corn and ſome other of the Neceſſaries of Life into the Town, and thereby oblige them to reſort for theſe Particulars to the publick *Stanc* *, where great Care is taken to furniſh them, without the *leaſt* View to private Advantage or Perquiſite. †

The *Baranco* is a hollow watry Place (as the Name imports) and is the principal Garden from whence the Garriſon and Town of *St. Philip*'s are principally ſupplied. It is a flat irregular Plot of Ground, bordered on both Sides by Rocks, and extending from the upper End of *St. Stephen*'s Cove a good way within Land. It is a fertile Spot, and produces in great Abundance every kind of Fruit, Greens, Herbs, Roots, and Pulſe, that is known to the *Minorquins*. Its Surface is but little raiſed above the Level of the Water, and there is no queſtion but that the Harbour which goes under the Name of *St. Stephen*'s Cove once poſſeſſed this whole Region, until the Land-Floods, which here are

* *Stanc*, q. d. *es tanc*, from the Verb *tancar*, to ſhut, or lock up: The Governor's Stores for ſuppiying the Garriſon and Inhabitants with Corn, Wine, *Aguardiente* (a kind of Spirits), and Oil.

† The *Line-Wall* is ſince pulled down.

ſudden

ſudden and violent (as the Rains are) waſhing the finer Parts of the Soil from the Upper Grounds, filled it up above the Height of the Water, and converted it by Degrees to a rich Earth. This was the Original of all the *Barancos* at the Heads of the greater and leſſer Harbours throughout the Iſland; and in all the Harbours here, where the Sea is ſmooth within them, and where there is no Back-Water to force down the Earth, nor Tide to carry it off, the *Barancos* muſt for ever enlarge themſelves, and conſtantly encroach on the Water.

St. Stephen's Cove is a ſmall Inlet of the Sea, eaſily admitting Boats with Supplies of Fuel and Proviſions whenever the Circumſtances of a Siege allow of it, at the ſame time that they render it more difficult to approach the Garriſon by the Way of the Harbour.

On the Coaſt to the Southward are many Coves in the Rocks, formed by the daſhing of the Waves, and abounding with Wild-Pigeons; and hereabouts the Fiſhermen exerciſe their Art, when the Weather will not admit of their going further out to Sea.

In this Neighbourhood lies *Laire de Mahon*, which we now call *Coney-Iſland*. It is ſeparated from the Main by a Sound of about two Miles over, of very dangerous Navigation to Ships of Burthen, on account of its Shoals and foul Ground. This little Iſland, which appears to be a ſterile Rock, yet has ever been plentifully

plentifully ſtocked with Rabbets, from whence it has received its modern Name; and here no inconſiderable Quantity of Salt is yearly made, which by a particular Indulgence is exempted from the Payment of the uſual Duties, rigidly enough exacted every where elſe in the Country.

I have never been much ſurpriſed to find very groſs Errors and Miſrepreſentations in the ordinary Level of Travellers, but I confeſs I was ſtruck with Aſtoniſhment on reading the romantick Deſcription it has pleaſed the Cardinal *de Retz*, one of the greateſt Men of his Age, to give the World of *Mahon* Harbour. I ſhall tranſcribe it for you at length, as I find it in the *Amſterdam* Edition of his *Memoirs*, printed in 1718, p. 301, of the firſt Volume.

His Words are as follow: *Port Mahon, qui eſt le plus beau de la Mediterrannée—— Son embouchure eſt fort êtroite, et je ne crois pas que deux Galeres à la fois y puſſent paſſer en voguant, il s'elargit tout d'un coup, et fait un baſſin oblong qui a une grande demi lieüe de long; une grande montagne qui l'environne de tous les côtez fait un theâtre, qui par la multitude et la hauteur des arbres dont elle eſt couverte, et par les ruiſſaux qu'elle jette avec une abondance prodigieuſe, ouvre mille et mille ſcenes qui ſont ſans exageration plus ſurprenantes que celles de l'opera; cette même montagne, ces arbres, ces rochers, couvrent le port de tous les vents, et dans les plus grands tempêtes, il*

eſt

eſt toujours auſſi calme qu'un baſſin de fontaine, et auſſi uni qu'une glace——Minorque donne encore plus de chair et de toutes ſortes de victuailles neceſſaires à la navigation, que Mayorque ne produit de grenades, d'oranges et de limons——Dans ce beau lieu la chaſſe êtoit la plus belle du monde en toute ſorte de gibier, et la pêche en profuſion.

" *Port-Mahon* is the fineſt in the *Mediter-*
" *ranean*——The Entrance is very narrow,
" and I do not think that two Galleys could
" row by each other there; but it widens all
" at once, and forms an oblong Baſon of a
" good League in Length and more than
" half a League over. A great Mountain
" ſurrounds it on every Side, and forms a
" kind of Theatre, which in the Number
" and great Height of the Trees with which
" it is covered, and the Streams it ſends
" forth in vaſt Abundance, preſents to the
" View an infinite Variety of Scenes, much
" more aſtoniſhing, without Exaggeration,
" than thoſe of the Opera. This Mountain,
" theſe Trees and Rocks, ſhelter the Port on
" every Side from the Winds, ſo that in the
" moſt tempeſtuous Weather it is as calm as
" a Baſon, and as ſmooth as a Piece of Ice—
" *Minorca* furniſhes more freſh Meat and all
" Sorts of Proviſions for the Uſe of Ships,
" than *Majorca* does of Pomegranates,
" Oranges, and Lemons——In this delight-
" ful Place we found every kind of Game,
" and a Profuſion of Fiſh."

I muſt

I muſt obſerve to you, Sir, that this gay Picture is full of falſe Colouring; for the Harbour is not ſurrounded by a Mountain, though the Land is high in ſome Places; there are no high Trees, nay ſcarcely any Trees near it, nor is it probable there ever were many; no Stream of Water falls into it; and Boats are frequently over-ſet here by ſudden Flurries of Wind. What the Cardinal ſays of *Majorca* is not to be readily accounted for, that Iſland having ever produced the Neceſſaries of Life in much greater Abundance than *Minorca*, as it certainly does at this Day.

To ſail into *Port-Mahon*, they bring *Mount-Toro* to bear with the Middle of the Harbour, and ſo keep it till they are got the Length of *Bloody-Iſland*, taking Care not to come too near *Philipet*, where there is a ſunk Rock: They are then in 9 or 10 Fathoms Water, and good Ground. If they would go above *Bloody-Iſland*, they muſt leave it on the Right-Hand, and there is Water enough quite up to the Kay of the Town. Whenever they would approach the *Cape-Mola* Side, they muſt keep the Lead a-going, for the Water ſhoals every where there, whereas there is a ſufficient Depth on the other Side, for the moſt Part, from one End to the other.

There is a good Kay at *St. Philip*'s, for the Uſe of Ships; on the other Side of the Harbour, but a little lower down, where is the narroweſt

narroweſt Place, ſtands Fort *Philipet*, where a ſmall Guard does Duty for the Security of the Powder there lodged in a Magazine. Here is a Battery of Guns, on a Level with the Surface of the Water, for defending the Entrance of the Harbour. Between this Fort and the *Cape-Mola* Shore is an Opening, which has been ſometimes fatally miſtaken for the Mouth of *Mahon* Harbour. On the elevated Top of *Cape-Mola* is the Signal-Houſe, from whence the Garriſon has due Warning on the Approach of Ships and Veſſels from Sea: A Buſh hung out denotes a ſmall Veſſel, a Ball a Ship, 2 or 3 Balls the ſame Number of Ships, and a Flag a Fleet; theſe Signals are hoiſted on the Side where the ſhips are diſcovered.

Cape-Mola is high Land, and is almoſt ſevered from the Iſland by *Philipet* Cove and a ſmall Bay on the North Side, and is univerſally eſteemed capable of being rendered an almoſt impregnable Fortreſs, at no more than a moderate Expence.

It is every where, except within the Harbour, ſurrounded by inacceſſible Precipices; and the Height (though there much diminiſhed) is very great next the ſandy Neck that joins it to the Country; and if it were even adviſable to make it an Iſland, the Experiment would be in no wiſe difficult.

It muſt be owned that this advantageous Situation has not been wholly overlooked, for ſince we have had the Iſland in our Poſſeſſion,

Poſſeſſion, ſome conſiderable Works have been taken in Hand, though they were never perfected; and this ſeems to have been the Reaſon: When we firſt got *Minorca* into our Hands, it was but reaſonable to expect that the *Spaniards* of King *Philip*'s Party would make ſome Efforts towards recovering it into their Poſſeſſion, and therefore ſome Addition of Strength was haſtily made at *St. Philip*'s. When the Peace of *Utrecht* was afterwards concluded, which confirmed the Iſland to us, ſome Uſe was made of the Calm that enſued to begin theſe Works at *Cape-Mola*; which however were ſoon diſcontinued, on an Alarm of the *Spaniards* having made Preparations to invade us; and then ſomething was further done at *St. Philip*'s, to put it into a preſent Poſture of Defence. At Length *St. Philip*'s growing in Extent and Number of Outworks to be a great Place, and having coſt an immenſe Sum of Money to make it ſo, it was judged too good to be demoliſhed; aud thus *Cape-Mola* came to be ſlighted, and the Works of the Caſtle were ordered to be further improved.

At the upper End of the Harbour of *Mahon* are *St. John*'s Gardens, ſituate in a large *Baranco*, from whence *Mahon* is principally ſupplied with Vegetables. This *Baranco* is of far greater Extent than that I mentioned at *St. Philip*'s, to which it bears about the ſame Proportion that the Harbour does to *St. Stephen*'s Cove, and affords not only ſufficient Supplies

Supplies for the ordinary Demands, as well of Soldiers as Natives, but is likewiſe able to furniſh a Fleet, when we have one, without any great Difference being obſerved in the Market, either in the Increaſe of the Price or the Scarcity of the Commodity.

Santa Gracia is a little Mile to the ſouthward of *Mahon*, and is not an unpleaſant Place for this Country. Its Lanterns and Cupolas give it an Air of Grandeur at a certain Diſtance, and its Gardens are well improved and kept very clean.

The *Barancos* which I have mentioned are not the only Gardens that ſupply *Mahon* and *St. Philip*'s; they are indeed the principal; but ſeveral others bring in their Quota, ſo that I do not know any Place that is better ſerved with Garden-Stuff than *Minorca* is, nor on more moderate Terms.

About four Miles to the northward of *Mahon* are the *Buferas*, or Lakes (the Word *Bufera* in *Arabick* importing a Lake) abounding with excellent Mullets, and ſome other Kinds of Fiſh, and harbouring in Winter an amazing Number and Variety of Wild-Fowl. The Water of theſe Lakes is ſalt, and it is not ſtrange it ſhould be ſo, ſince they are only ſeparated from the Sea by a Sand, through which the Water eaſily filters, and keeps up to a Level, with the Surface of the Sea, or near it; for there is ſometimes an obſervable Difference; as when the Levanters ſet in, the

Sea

Sea falls away faſter than the Water in the Lakes can paſs through the Sand, to ſink them in Proportion; and at ſuch Times the Lakes will be higher than the Sea: Again, when the weſterly Winds blow with Violence, and ſwell the Sea, its Surface will be higher than that of the Lakes, for the ſame Reaſon.

Colomba Iſland lies in the Neighbourhood of the *Buferas*, and had its Name from the vaſt Number of Wild Pigeons that breed in its rocky Cliffs. Here have been found ſome Specimens of Copper-Ore, of which none (ſo far as I have ſeen) appear to hold a Quantity of that Metal ſufficient to defray the Charge of working it. But poſſibly a richer Sort might be diſcovered by digging to a proper Depth, theſe having only been withdrawn from the Surface of the Rock.

If there are any other Places worth deſcribing in the *Termino* of *Mahon*, I freely confeſs I do not know them; ſo that in my next I ſhall proceed to that of *Alaior*.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER

LETTER V.

SIR, MINORCA, 13 *December* 1740.

GOVERNOR *Kane*'s Road runs through the whole Iſland, from *St Philip*'s to *Ciudadella*, in as direct a Courſe as could well be given it in a Country ſo very mountainous and irregular; and by that means neceſſarily leaves ſome of the Capitals of *Terminos* on one Side, through which the old Road led. The Town of *Alaior*, which is the principal one of the *Termino*, and the beſt in *Minorca*, after *Ciudadella* and *Mahon*, lies half a Mile out of the great Road on the left Hand; and this was unavoidable, unleſs Mr *Kane* had made his new Road almoſt as winding as the old one was, which many of the *Spaniards* obſtinately uſe at this Day, though it be one of the worſt I ever ſaw, and in many places ſcarcely to be paſſed.

We reckon *Alaior* good Quarters for a Regiment though only nine Companies are uſually placed in Garriſon here, the other being ſent to the Caſtle of *Fornelles*. The Officers Houſes and the Barracks are not much to be found Fault with, Proviſions are plenty, the Duty eaſy, and many of the People converſable and obliging, when we have once got their Language, which we find it neceſſary to learn as expeditiouſly as we can, and that on more Accounts than one.

Alaior

Alaior ſtands high and airy, and is tolerably well built. On an Eminence is the great Church, a handſome *Gothick* Structure, all of Freeſtone, and conſiderably antient, having a ſquare Tower, crowned with a tall light Spire, ſeen at a Diſtance, and contributing not a little to the Ornament of the Town.

The Streets for the moſt Part are narrow enough, and as none of them are paved, a tender Foot is ſenſible of the uneven Rock in moſt Places.

The firſt Pile of Building that ſtrikes the Eye as we enter the Town, is a neat Church all of ſquared Freeſtone. It is quite plain on the Outſide, but ſet off within, as the Churches of this Iſland generally are, with every Ornament in Painting and Sculpture that can be expected from the Genius and Ability of the Natives. There is at preſent a Sculptor in *Alaior*, where, if I do not miſtake, he was born, who, without any Maſter but Nature, or any School but what he found in the Works of Geniuſes far inferior to his own, and without a Rival to excite Emulation, has executed ſeveral Altars in the Churches of *Minorca* that deſerve our Commendation. I have ſeen many Statues as large as the Life, carved in Wood by the Hand of this Artiſt, that were of exact Proportion, and in very pleaſing Attitudes. He knows the juſt Meaſures of the ſeveral Orders of Architecture, and finiſhes the Capitals

pitals in a maſterly Manner; and his Ornaments in Fruits and Foliage are of ſo delicate a Taſte as to aſtoniſh a Judge of theſe Matters, who at the ſame Time reflects on the Difficulties he muſt have encountered, the ſlender Encouragement he found, and the inconſiderable Reward he had to expect, no more than the ſcanty Support of his Family in ſtrict Frugality, under a conſtant Practice of the moſt ſevere Oeconomy.

The Churches of this Country are ever without Pews, the People throwing themſelves on their Knees in front of the High-Altar, the Men and Women ſeparately, where with an uncommon Appearance of Devotion they attend the Celebration of the Maſs.

Near this Church is the *Caſa del Rey* *, or *Stallage*, where a Traveller finds Provender for his Beaſts, and where he may lodge, if he has no Acquaintance in the Town to go to. When this Houſe, which is the utmoſt Progreſs *Minorca* has yet made towards an Inn, happens to be in the Hands of a Native, the Fare is hard, and the Bed uneaſy: Eggs are ever to be had, and brown Bread, and ſometimes a Fowl may be procured; but greater Dainties muſt not be expected in a Part of the World where there are but few Travellers, and where the Heat of the Cli-

* The King's Houſe.

mate

mate will not admit of a conſtant Larder to be kept up, as the Demand too is purely caſual. But the *Stallage* here is generally kept by a Soldier, who provides for the Entertainment of ſeveral Gentlemen of the Regiment, and has always ſomewhat to ſpare for a chance Comer, let his Condition be ever ſo mean. For as to Gentlemen, who come into Port, and have a Mind to ſee the Country, they are conſtantly entertained at the Houſes of the Officers, with great Freedom and Hoſpitality let their Stay be what it will.

There is but one Convent in *Alaior*, and that belongs to the *Franciſcans*. It is built on all the Sides of a ſquare Court, with Cloiſters and Galleries, painted with the Hiſtory of the Founder of the Order. The Chapel is large, and not ill proportioned. Theſe Fryars take a ſingular Pride in ſhewing their Library, which conſiſts of ſome thouſands of Volumes, and contains all the Learning of the School-Divinity, and the Legends of moſt of the Saints enumerated in their Calendar.

One Church remains to the *Engliſh*, for the Celebration of Divine-Service whenever it happens that a Man of War lies in the Harbour that has a Chaplain belonging to it; or elſe theſe five Regiments (each of which has a Chaplain commiſſioned for its ghoſtly Inſtruction, at a yearly Stipend of 121 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d.* beſides a Chaplain-General to the Iſland) are generally left to pray for themſelves

themſelves in a popiſh Country, where many a Prieſt does not earn ten Pounds a Year, though he is conſtantly employed in the Exerciſe of his Function.

The Town-Houſe ſtands near the Center of *Alaior*, and is a decent Pile of Building.

The Wells from which the Town is principally ſupplied are in a Valley on the North Side, near the Exerciſing-Ground for the Diſcipline of the Regiment: Beſides theſe the Burghers have ſeveral Wells of their own, and Ciſterns for Rain-Water are to be found in almoſt every Houſe in Town.

In a Country where there is no River, the Inhabitants are obliged to dig Wells in the Rock, to furniſh them with Water for the common Uſes of the Houſe. Their Depth depends on the Height of the Ground where they are to be made; for they muſt be ever carried to the Level of the Sea; and though this is not a great deal at *St. Philip*'s or *Ciudadella*, it is yet very conſiderable at *Mahon* and *Alaior*, which are built on Eminences. They uſually dig to a blackiſh kind of Slate-Stone, upon breaking of which, the Water guſhes out with ſuch Violence, at the Vent they give it, that their Lives are in the utmoſt Danger if they do not retire with all poſſible Diligence. The *Minorquins* are conſtantly exerciſed in this mining and burrowing in the Rock, and are ſo ſkilful and ready at it, that it comes very reaſonable.

The Maſons cut ſmall Channels, or

Grooves, on two Sides of the ſquare Well, near an Angle, to admit a Man's Foot, and favour his deſcending and aſcending, not only while the Work is in Hand, but at all Times after, when there is Occaſion to clear, or repair it.

As for their Ciſterns, they are hewn out of the Rock, and contrived of a Size to contain a ſufficient Quantity of Water for the Family to drink. They are carefully plaiſtered with a good Cement, and then Canals are laid that convey to them all the Rain-Water that falls on the Roof of the Houſe; only they ſuffer the firſt Showers to run off in Waſte, to clean the Tiles, or the Terrace; after which they give free Admittance to all that comes until the Ciſtern is full, allowing the Water ſome Time to depoſite its Sediment before they uſe it. Theſe Ciſterns are various and irregular in their Figure, which however more frequently approaches that of a Sphere, than any other.

Sometimes the Water happens to corrupt in their Ciſterns, for which they have their Remedies: Two or three little Eels thrown in alive generally do the Feat; but if theſe fail, they try an Arm-full of the green Tops of Myrtle: If neither Method ſucceeds, which is not often the Caſe, they empty and clean them, and the firſt Rains furniſh them with good Water again.

They have never been accuſtomed to calculate the Content of their Ciſterns, and proportion

portion them to the Demands of the Houſe, and thence regulate the Extent of Roofing that is neceſſary to ſupply them with Water: Yet the Method is eaſy enough. Suppoſe, for Example, that a Family has daily Occaſion for eight Gallons of drinking Water, that is 2920 Gallons in a Year. The Quantity of Rain-Water that falls in a Twelvemonth on a ſuperficial Foot of horizontal Surface in *Minorca* we will reckon, one Year with another, at 27 Inches; but allowing for Waſte, we will take it at no more than 20 Inches: A Veſſel of one Foot ſquare and 20 Inches in Depth countains 2880 cubical Inches of Water: wherefore a Surface of 240 ſuperficial Feet of Roofing will furniſh 691200 Inches cubical of Water, which divided by 231, the Number of ſuch Inches in a Gallon, of Liquid-Meaſure, make 2992 Gallons, a little more than the Quantity required.

There are ſeveral Woods in the Neighbourhood of *Alaior*, but the Ground is covered with looſe Stones, that render the walking rugged and troubleſome, ſo that we are inhoſpitably debarred the Benefit of their Shade. Brigadier *Paget* has lately cleared a large Space in one of them, by ſetting the Soldiers of his Regiment at Work, to remove the Stones, and fill up the hollow Places; and it is now a fine Lawn, covered with Turf, which by the Shelter it receives from the Trees that encompaſs it (which are

chiefly of that kind of Oaks that preſerve their Verdure all the Year) is never ſcorched by the Sun; neither has it that Moiſture under Foot that is ſo much complained of in other Countries.

St. Puig in this *Termino* deſerves to be remembered, on account of the Houſe Colonel *Ruſſel* built there ſome Years ago; and here a Lead-Mine was wrought to Advantage within theſe forty Years, but has been for ſome Time neglected.

If I obſerved a ſtrict topographical Method, I ſhould tire you to Death with circumſtantial Deſcriptions of Places, which muſt be all taken Notice of, becauſe they are all to be found: But I will neither abuſe your Patience, nor miſ-employ my Time, to ſo little Purpoſe. Suffer me then to ſay I have done with the *Termino* of *Alaior*, and to conclude this Trouble with the Aſſurance of my being unfeignedly,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER VI.

SIR, MINORCA, 2 *February* 1740-41.

MERCADAL, though the Capital of a *Termino*, is but a poor Place, and very meanly built; yet as it ſtands near the Center

Center of the Iſland it is the common Stage in paſſing from *Mahon* to *Ciudadella*. The Accommodations at the *Stallage* are ſo wretched, that we uſually lodge at a private Houſe, where about a Shilling contents our Hoſt for the Uſe of his Bed. We take Care to carry ſome Proviſion of Wine and Meat along with us, a Precaution which a Traveller will ſcarcely neglect a ſecond Time in this Country.

The Church is ſeated on an Eminence, and is a Building of leſs Beauty than Antiquity, now tending to Ruin. The poor Inhabitants are anxious enough to reſtore it, and have accordingly begun a Foundation; and if their Opulence bore any Proportion to their Zeal, I am confident the pious Work would advance with a Rapidity more like the Effect of Magick than the Labour of the deliberative *Minorquins*.

On the oppoſite Side of the Town is a Ciſtern for Rain-Water, that which they draw from their Wells being reckoned unwholſome. Above the Ciſtern a large Area is encloſed with a Stone Wall; the Floor is well terraced, and laid ſloping every way to the Hole, at which all the Rain-Water that falls on the Area runs into the Ciſtern. There is ſomething ſqualid and haggard in the Countenances of theſe People, beyond what we obſerve in the reſt of the Natives of *Minorca*, and eſpecially in the Women; but whether it is occaſioned by the Badneſs

of their Water, which is the Cauſe that is uſually alledged for it, or is owing to the frequent Viſits of their charitable Neighbours, the *Auſtin* Fryars of *Mount-Toro*, I will not venture to determine. Theſe holy Men have their Convent on the Summit of the Mountain, at the Foot of which *Mercadal* is ſeated

Mount-Toro (or the Mountain of the *Bull*) had its Name from the miraculous Actions performed by one of thoſe Beaſts ſeveral Ages ſince *. This Mountain ſtands near the Center of the Iſland, which it proudly overlooks, and is ſteep enough in the Aſcent, and narrow and perillous in many Parts of the winding Road that leads to the Convent, by which the Area on the Top is entirely taken up. The Chapel is a neat Building, and is painted with the legendary Hiſtory of the *Bull*. Theſe Monks have a Rain-Water Ciſtern within their Walls, beſides which there are ſeveral Sources that break out among the Rocks diſperſedly here and there on the rugged Sides of the Mountain. *Mount-Toro* is of the Sugar-Loaf make, and its vaſt Cone is elevated on a Baſe that is many Miles in Diameter. Hence the Proſpect is very extenſive and amuſing, and the Air in the hot Months is conſtantly tempered with refreſhing Breezes, that render it extreamly delightful at that parching Seaſon.

Fornelles-

* This is the uſual Etymology, but it is more probable the *Moors* called it *El Tor* [*high*] as it was the higheſt Ground in the Iſland.

Fornelles-Caſtle is built on the weſtern Side of the Entrance of a large Harbour of the ſame Name, ſituate about ſix Miles to the northward of *Mount-Toro*. It is a ſquare Fort, faced with hewn Stone, and conſiſts of four Baſtions and as many Curtains, with very little of a Ditch, and no Outworks before it. The Inſide is built on every Side of the Square with Houſes for the Reception of the Troops, and for laying up the neceſſary Proviſions and Ammunition; and as they are all ſtrongly vaulted, the Rampart is over them. The Commanding-Officers have of late converted the Chapel into a Cellar; and as the *Minorquins* were heretofore comforted from hence with *holy Sprinklings* and *Benedictions*, our Soldiers have their Hearts no leſs rejoiced by the *Wine* and *Strong-Waters* here retailed to them at *a very reaſonable Price* by their *Commandant*, who is *the Suttler of the Garriſon*.

A few Fiſhermen live by the Water-Side, near the Walls of the Caſtle, who daily ſupply the Garriſon with Plenty of Fiſh. The Duty is done by a Company of the *Alaior* Regiment, which is relieved every Year, as all the reſt of the Troops throughout the Iſland uſually are.

On a very high Land at the oppoſite Side of the Harbour is an *Athalaia* *, from

 whence

* A Signal-Houſe.

whence the Signals are eaſily diſtinguiſhable at the Caſtle.

Though the Port of *Fornelles* is very large and ſpacious, yet as it has many Shoals and much foul Ground, none care to venture in but ſuch as are well acquainted. Of this Number are the Maſters of our Packets, when they meet with violent contrary Winds in the Gulph of *Lyons*, on their Paſſage to *Marſeilles*; they then make for this Port, where they are ſecurely ſheltered until the Gale abates and the Wind comes to be favourable. They are not ignorant to how little Purpoſe it is to contend with the ſurly *Levanters*, which blow hard, and generally continue a long Time; and as they are directly againſt them in their Courſe to the Coaſt of *France*, they chooſe to refuge themſelves in any tolerable Port until their Rage is ſpent, and the milder weſterly Winds ſucceed.

Yet large Ships have occaſionally put into *Fornelles* Harbour, and particularly at the Time of the Surrender of St. *Philip*'s Caſtle, when two Men of War were ſent to take in this Garriſon, as I ſhall have Occaſion to ſhew more at length hereafter.

Mount-Agatha is about four Miles to the north-weſtward of *Mercadal*, very near the Confines of the *Termino* of *Fererias*. It is a high Mountain, eminently exalting itſelf above the other high Mountains that environ it, and preſents to the Eye ſuch an unbounded

bounded Scene of vaſt Deſerts and wild elevated Tracts of naked Rock, as poſſeſſes the Mind with a kind of awful Delight that for a Time ſuſpends all other Reflections, except ſuch as ariſe from a Contemplation of the Wonders of the Lanſcape.

On one Side Hills riſe above Hills, deriving a barren Nakedneſs from their northern Expoſure. The Soil which once covered them has been waſhed away by the violent Rains of many Ages; or rather (as one is tempted to believe, that views their rocky Entrails) ſhook off at once by ſome terrible Convulſions of the labouring Earth. On another Side, Valleys, Plantations and Vineyards interrupt the hideous Proſpect, and Hills of gentle Aſcent are marked with the Furrows of the Plow, or covered with Flocks to the very Top.

I had here an Opportunity of obſerving the Structure of a neighbouring Mountain, all compoſed of a naked Rock, that was divided into a great Number of *Strata*; but theſe were not parallel to the Surface of the Earth, as they are uſually found in our Quarries, but formed an Angle of at leaſt thirty Degrees with the Horizon. Now whether the Mountain was left in this Condition by the *Deluge*, when it is ſuppoſed that the different Parts of Matter of which the Earth is compoſed, ſubſided from the Water according to their Degrees of Gravity, and formed regular horizontal *Strata* throughout;

or this inclining Direction of the *Strata* is to be referred to ſome ſucceeding Change in the Face of Nature, I ſhall leave to the Conſideration of thoſe learned Perſons who diſpute about the Original of Mountains, and the internal Structure and Contents of the Globe.

Mount-Agatha is aſcended for the moſt Part by great Rocks, that have been hewn into a kind of gigantick Steps, which our Mules eaſily climbed, with their Riders on their Backs; but I choſe to return on Foot, as the Springs that iſſue here and there had rendered this huge Stair-Caſe (if I may ſo call it) ſlippery, and dangerous, as I thought, in many Places: There is a Space on the Top of five or ſix Acres, where the delicate Herbage is cropped by a few Sheep, that are looked after by a poor Fellow who ſojourns with his Family in this airy Region. Here is a neat little Chapel dedicated to *Santa Agatha*, a Saint much reverenced all over the Iſland for the Cures that are daily performed at her Interceſſion, in all Diſeaſes of the Womens Breaſts.

A Prieſt frequently aſcends this ſtupendous *Balearick Alp*, to officiate in the Chapel, where many pious People aſſemble from the adjacent Country to attend him, eſpecially ſuch of the other Sex as labour under Complaints in that delicate Part of the human Body. The Altar is hung with *Votive Figures* of the Seat of the Diſtemper, and there

there are ſome hundreds of the Repreſentations of little Breaſts, in Wood, Wax, and Silver, which have been devoutly placed there, in Gratitude to the Saint.

The Summit of the Mountain was ſtrongly fortified by the *Moors*, and was in their Days eaſily defended againſt every Enemy but Famine; and accordingly they held it out againſt a numerous Army, long after the *Chriſtians* had beat their Countrymen in the Field, and diſpoſſeſſed them of all the other Holds in *Minorca*.

I could not here diſcover any *Veſtigia* of the *Romans*, wherefore it is that I ſay this Fortreſs was the Work of the *Moors* (which Hiſtory likewiſe confirms) and there is an antient Inſcription over the Door of a Tower, almoſt defaced by Time, which, ſo far as it is legible, appears to be of the *Arabick* Character.

The Plan of this Fortification is very irregular, its Figure having been accommodated to that of the Plain it was built to incloſe. A Range of *Curtains* quite round, with Towers at proper Diſtances, was raiſed on the very Edge of the Precipice. Within this a leſſer Circuit was contrived on the higheſt Ground, to enable the Garriſon to make a more ſtrenuous Defence, when the outward Works ſhould be forced, and an Enemy in Poſſeſſion of the Plain.

Here are two remarkable Rain-Water *Ciſterns*, which were built by the *Moors*, and continue

continue entire to this Day. They are ſeated at the lower End of the Plain, the better to receive all the Rain-Water that falls upon it; and contain together, for I meaſured them, 2173 Tons, or 547,596 Wine-Gallons, which at an Allowance of one Gallon a Day, would furniſh 1500 Men with Water throughout the Year. But this Allowance might admit of being retrenched in the Time of a Siege, and the Water be dealt in half the Quantity to 3000 Men, the Survivors of whom would come by Degrees to enjoy this uſeful Element in Plenty, as the Siege advanced and their Numbers diminiſhed.

Theſe *Ciſterns* are compoſed of a kind of *Tapia*, or Cement, moulded in Frames (the Marks of which I ſaw) and plaiſtered nicely over with a finer Cement. This Manner of Work was much uſed by the *Moors*, whereever they came, and the ingenious Doctor *Shaw* informs us in his Travels *, that *moſt of the Walls of* Tlemſan (in *Barbary*) *have been moulded in Frames; and conſiſt of a Mortar made up of Sand, Lime, and ſmall Pebbles; which, by being well tempered and wrought together, hath attained a Strength and Solidity equal to Stone.* He adds, *the ſeveral Stages and Removes of theſe Frames are ſtill obſervable.* The *Mooriſh* Caſtle at *Gibraltar* is the moſt noble Specimen of this kind of Work that I have ſeen; which having

* P. 48.

having withſtood the Weather for many Ages, was in the laſt Siege Proof againſt the Enemy's Shot; which made little Impreſſion on it; either ſticking in the Face of the Wall, as ſome of it did, or only ſtriking againſt it, and falling to the Ground, deadened by the Blow,

I ſhall mention but one Place more in this *Termino*, and that is *Adaia*. It is a *Poſſeſſion* (as the Farms of this Iſland are called) ſituate at the Side of a large Harbour to the eaſtward of *Mount-Toro*.

It lies in the Form of a Theatre, open to the Port on the eaſtern Side, but ſurrounded on every other Quarter by a Chain of Hills, riſing with a gradual Aſcent to a great Height. Theſe are moſtly naked of Greenſward to detain the Earth, and that which has been conſtantly waſhed down from thence by the Rains has conſiderably enriched the Soil: The Hills likewiſe afford *Adaia* a uſeful Shelter from the bleak north-weſterly Winds of this Climate. The Air derives a Temper from theſe Advantages that gives it, in my Opinion, an indiſputable Preference to that of every other Spot in *Minorca*.

The Gardens too are laid out in a tolerable Taſte for this Country, and produce every kind of Vegetable, which theſe People cultivate, in the greateſt Perfection and Abundance. Here are delightful ſhady Walks, with others that are more airy, when the

the Sun is retired behind the weſtern Mountains. The Grape, the Orange, and the Pomegranate, preſent their cooling Juices in Profuſion; and the Water-Melons, which the *Minorquins* eſteem the Almighty's Bleſſing on a hot Country, offer their delicious Store. Hither a pure Stream of living Water is conducted from a neighbouring Spring, and throws itſelf from a Height into a large Baſon, from whence it glides gently through ſeveral Canals, and waters every Part of the Gardens.

Beſides the Charms of the Garden, the Harbour is itſelf extreamly pleaſing to the Eye. As its Entrance is covered from our View by the Interpoſition of high Grounds to the northward, it appears like a great River, bordered by a Variety of ever-green Shrubs, that yield to the Impreſſion of every Breeze, and ſlope their Tops, as if they delighted to view their Pride of Foliage in its glaſſy Boſom. The exquiſite Poliſh of its Surface is ſometimes broke by the leaping of little Fiſhes at their living Prey, ſpread by the bounteous Hand of Heaven in infinite Numbers for their Suſtenance. But its Gloſs returns as the ſpreading Circles die away. This Harbour, though one of the principal Ornaments of *Adaia*, is of no ſort of Uſe to the Navigation of the Iſland, on account of its Rocks and Shelves—— *Statio malefida carinis.*

You

You will ſay I wrote this in a romantick Humour: I confeſs it freely; and I ſhall ever think of *Adaia*, and of the Company I enjoyed at that charming little Retirement, with the utmoſt Complacency and Satiſfaction.

Of the *Termino* of *Fererias*, united to this of *Mercadal*, but little is to be ſaid. The Town lies out of the Road about a Muſket-Shot on the left Hand; and as its Appearance at this Diſtance gives a Traveller but little Curioſity to view it nearer, I will content myſelf with telling you, it is a poor mean Place.

Theſe united *Terminos* are the pooreſt and the leaſt cultivated of the Iſland; yet they abound moſt with Game, as is obſerved in other Countries; for the feathered Tribe will naturally frequent a Region where they are but rarely diſturbed: Yet here are ſeveral conſiderable Tracts of Land that ſeem to encourage the Huſbandman and invite his Toil; if the Expence of clearing the Ground of the vaſt Incumbrance of Trees and Shrubs that over-ſpread it, did not prove an invincible Obſtacle to an impoveriſhed People, haraſſed by a tyrannous Clergy, who riot in Luxury and Profuſion, which they muſt toil in Penury and Wretchedneſs to ſupport. Yet a little Tendency to Improvement has lately diſcovered itſelf in theſe *Terminos*, but its Efforts are feeble and its Progreſs ſlow: Time may bring it to ſomething; and nothing

thing but Time can reclaim a People, naturally indolent and desponding, into a Train of Thinking that tends to their Advantage and Prosperity; Points they seem to have long given up, as totally out of their Reach, and which are almost grown to be equally out of their Wish.

I have brought this Letter to a Conclusion, and in my next I shall lead you to the *Termino* of *Ciudadella*. I am in the mean Time, with my warmest Wishes for your Health,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER VII.

SIR, MINORCA, 28 *March* 1741.

CIUDADELLA was the Capital of *Minorca*, when it was surrendered by the *Moors* to King *James* of *Arragon*, *A. D.* 1232, and continued to be so from that Time until the Courts were removed to *Mahon* by our Governors, who made that Town the Place of their Residence: Before it was deprived of those Advantages, it was a flourishing Town, well built, and sufficiently populous. Its Harbour served very well for the Barks that traded to *Majorca* and the Continent, and it supplied *Mahon* with foreign Goods, as it is now, for the most Part,

Part, ſupplied with them from thence; and all Intelligence, when the Circumſtances of the Times required Circumſpection, was neceſſarily ſent from this Port.

But this important Step was no ſooner made, but *Ciudadella* viſibly declined in its Trade, and its Wealth decreaſed in the ſame Proportion; and the Number of its Inhabitants ſuffered, by ſwift Degrees, a very ſenſible Diminution. Yet in this impoveriſhed State, it may ſtill boaſt of more *Dons* and *Cavalleros* within its Walls, than are to be found in all the reſt of the Iſland put together. In this Town are about ſix hundred Houſes, moſt of which are inhabited.

It is an Obſervation of *Cæſar*, that the *Kentiſhmen* were the moſt civilized of all the *Britons*, which he attributes to their being a maritime People, more converſant with Foreigners than the reſt of their Countrymen were. And it may be ſaid with equal Truth that the People of this Town derived a Courteſy and Politeneſs from the ſame Cauſe, that ſtill diſtinguiſhed them from the reſt of the *Minorquins*.

Ciudadella is entirely walled in: That Part that is next the *Baranco* is the Work of the *Moors*; and though it is a bold Wall, and of great Height, it ſtands tolerably well, conſidering it muſt have been built above ſix hundred Years. The reſt is more modern, and conſiſts of a *Rampart*, with a great many *Baſtions* and *Curtains*, all of ſquared Freeſtone.

Freeſtone. Though the Rampart is narrow at the *Curtains*, the *Baſtions* are roomy enough; the *Parapets* are all of Stone. A good *Ditch* has been laid out, and cut to a conſiderable Depth in the ſolid Rock, in ſome Places, with the *Parapet* of a *Covert-Way* before it; but it is little more than marked in others, where it was intended to be made. Theſe Works have been ſlighted ever ſince *Minorca* has been in our Hands, and the Garriſon upon an Alarm, is to make the beſt of its Way to *St. Philip's* Caſtle, driving before it all the Cattle that are to be eaſily found; and ſpoiling the Roads, the better to obſtruct an Enemy on his March.

Ciudadella ſtands at the Head of a little Harbour, where the Coaſting-Veſſels are ſheltered in a ſufficient Depth of Water, cloſe to the very Walls of the Town.

At the Corner of the Great *Parade*, next the Entrance of the Governor's Houſe, ſtands the *Exchange*; an antient Structure, raiſed on *Gothick* Arches of conſiderable Height: From hence is a Paſſage, where we deſcend by a *Poſtern*, and a very great Number of Stone Steps, to the *Kay*.

The Governor's Houſe, or *Palace*, as the Natives call it, becauſe it was the conſtant Reſidence of the *Spaniſh* Governors, is a large, irregular Fabrick, built in the *Gorge* of a *Baſtion*; the Ground-Floor contains the Offices; the principal Story communicates with

with the *Rampart*, and is upon a Level with it; and here is a pleaſant Walk, that commands a noble View of all this Part of the Iſland, a great Extent of Sea, and *Majorca*, at the Diſtance of ten Leagues.

The Commanding-Officer of the Regiment lives in this Houſe, where he finds the neceſſary Conveniencies: There is a good Garden belonging to it, divided from the *Parade* by a high Stone-Wall; but little Care is taken of it; and indeed the removing of the Regiments every Year, is apt to diſcourage a Perſon from making Improvements from which he can propoſe but ſmall Returns of Profit in the Time he has to continue: For the proper Seaſon for putting a Garden in Order is paſt before he comes into Garriſon, which is not till May; and if he does any Thing the enſuing Spring, he is obliged to be gone before the Things come to be fit for Uſe.

The Governor's Houſe has a ſmall Chapel within it, of which no Uſe, or at leaſt no religious one, is now made. Whenever we have Divine-Service in this Garriſon, it is performed in the great Hall of this Houſe, which is a very ſpacious Room, and I think the largeſt in *Minorca*.

The Officers Houſes here are in general well enough to be liked, and this Town is allowed by every Body to be the beſt Quarters in the Iſland, for a Regiment which has not a great deal to do; is well ſerved with Proviſions,

Proviſions, and reaſonably; is out of the way of Temptation to unneceſſary Expence; and if it is remote from the Seat of Government, *procul à Jove*, it is no ſmall Comfort to reflect, that it is alſo *procul à fulmine*.

The great Church ſtands near the Center of *Ciudadella*, and is a noble *Gothick* Pile of Building, the largeſt in the Country, and the Cathedral of the whole Iſland. It has a handſome ſquare Tower, and a light octangular Spire, all of hewn Stone; and is one of the principal Beauties in the Proſpect of the Town as we approach it at a Diſtance.

I think it reaſonable to ſuppoſe that this Church was not built before King *Alphonſo* of *Arragon* drove the *Moors* out of the Iſland, *A. D.* 1287: It is probably of no greater Antiquity; for though we read, * that in the Reign of the Emperor *Honorius*, *A. D.* 418, *Minorca* had St. *Severus* for its Biſhop, whoſe Seat was at *Ciudadella*, then called *Jamnon* (a Corruption of *Jamon*, the Name it received from its *Carthaginian* Founder) and I make no Difficulty in granting, that if there was a Biſhop, there alſo muſt have been a Cathedral: But ſurely the Building in Queſtion cannot be proved to be the original Cathedral, but one that has been ſince erected on the Ruins of the old, which might be deſtroyed by the *Moors*, who afterwards

* Dameto, p. 150.

afterwards were a long time Maſters of the Country. I ſhall not contend any further on this Head, having no Opportunity of ſatiſfying myſelf, or convincing you: However, though it may be difficult to aſcertain the preciſe time of its Foundation, that it ſtood as it now does in 1360, is evident from an Inſcription, in the Character of that Age, ſtill legible, over the Door in the South Porch, which I will here tranſcribe for you, in Hopes that you, or ſome of our Friends, may favour me with an Explanation of it, for I freely acknowledge I underſtand it but very imperfectly.

It is in the following Words:

Aci . Ihu . en . & . de . Cor
ſa . Prevera . quifo . Ofe
cial . de . Manorca . lo . q
ual . paſſa . deſoa . di
da . axi . de . juliol . laud
MCCCLX. doc. Deo. laia.

On the South Side of the Church, after a ſmart Shower of Rain, we may diſcern a vaſt Number of Graves, that have been hewn in the Rock; in many of which the human Bones appear at ſuch times: Many antient Graves are likewiſe to be ſeen without the Walls; but the dead Bodies are at preſent conſtantly depoſited in the Vaults of the Churches.

The Graves that have been cut in the Rock without the Walls of *Ciudadella*, I have examined

amined, with a View of ſatisfying myſelf, whether the Race of Men, that lived many Ages before us, were of a larger Stature, than thoſe with which the World is at preſent peopled.

The Reſult of my Searches here was no way favourable to the Opinion of certain Philoſophers, who fancied the human Body to be conſtantly degenerating in Size, and likely to end at laſt in a Race of Pigmies. Theſe Graves are no longer than is neceſſary for the preſent Generation, few of them extending to ſix Feet, and none exceeding that; but the far greater Part fall under five Feet eight Inches.

I have ſeen the Charnel-Houſe at *Hythe*, in *Kent*, where are the Bones of a great Number of *Danes*, that were ſlain, in a Battle, near that Place, upwards of Six hundred Years ago, as I remember; and I could not find one Bone that I could think ever belonged to a Man of ſix Feet high.

That there have been Men of extraordinary Stature in all Ages, is doubted by none; but that the general Size of Men was ever much above what it is at preſent, is not at all probable, at leaſt it does not ſeem ſo to me. The *Minorquins* have ſome tall Men among them; one I meaſured at *Ciudadella* in the Year 1738, was full ſix Feet five Inches high; but their common Standard is what is called the middle Size. They

are

are ſlender, erect, and well made; but not ſo broad in the Shoulders, nor ſo well-limbed, as the Inhabitants of colder Countries are obſerved to be.

There is a neat Church not far from hence, which was reſerved for the Uſe of the *Engliſh*, when the Iſland firſt came into our Poſſeſſion: It ſtill retains the *Name* of *the* Engliſh *Church*, though a great many Years are elapſed ſince it was delivered up to the Natives, by the Commander in Chief at that time, *for many and weighty Reaſons*.

Near *Mahon*-Gate is a Convent of *Auſtin* Fryars, a large Edifice, having a handſome Chapel within it, adorned with an elegant Cupola. Here Diſputations in the Philoſophy of the Schools are held at certain Times, and are very notably handled by the learned Fathers. The Point under Debate when I happened to be preſent (for they are well enough pleaſed to give us Hereticks an Opportunity of admiring their ſingular Erudition on ſuch Occaſions) was, *whether Matter or Form firſt exiſted*; and this ſhrewd Queſtion was litigated with at leaſt as much Earneſtneſs and Vociferation as its Importance deſerved. The Pain I was in for poor *Priſcian*, for they tried to talk *Latin*, would not ſuffer me to ſtay above two Hours, a Space of Time that had only ſufficed to put thoſe warm Diſputants at a greater Diſtance than they were, at their firſt ſetting out.

Learning

Learning of ſome ſort theſe Fryars certainly have; but ſurely it is an untoward kind of Learning that conſiſts only of Terms and Jargon, expreſſed in barbarous *Latin*. One of them, that was lately returned from his Studies at *Majorca*, gravely told me, *there was a new Philoſophy taught there, which was founded on Reaſon.*

The *Franciſcan* Convent fronts the great Parade, and is a large irregular Pile of Building, with a Chapel belonging to it (as all the Convents in the Iſland likewiſe have) and a good Garden. One of the Fathers keeps a School in the Houſe, for the Inſtruction of the Youth of the Town, whom he carefully grounds in the various Superſtitions of the *Romiſh* Church, and in a due Reverence for his holy Order. Another keeps an Apothecary's Shop in one of the Cells, where he diſpenſes the ſeveral Drugs which theſe People have in Uſe among them.

The Nuns of *Santa Clara* have alſo a Convent in this Town, and we have eaſy Acceſs to their Parlour, where we converſe with them through the double Grates. They are meagre ſqualid Creatures, with wrinkled Foreheads, and Eyes much *uſed to the melting Mood.*

The Fryars go out in Couples, as often as they will, and deny themſelves no *reaſonable Liberties and innocent Diverſions*, as the *French* Ladies (and poſſibly ſome others) very *juſtly* call them: But theſe Recluſes have Bodies

dies emaciated with Grief, hard Fare and Confinement, and Minds tortured with Inclinations they can neither gratify nor ſuppreſs; ſo that they ſink by ſwift Degrees into Diſeaſes and Miſery. And to add to the Unhappineſs of their Condition, theſe poor Nuns are ever revolving in their thoughts the imaginary Comforts by which they were deluded to take the Veil (all which vaniſhed the Inſtant they made their Profeſſion) and magnifying the Pleaſures of the World, now it is wholly out of their Power to enjoy them. And I believe they are not the only Perſons who have grown weary of a Solitude of their own chuſing, and heartily ſick of the Companions of their Retirement. But it little avails theſe forlorn Siſters to complain to their Parents of their wretched State: That were only to furniſh a favourite Topick for them to diſplay their Eloquence upon; it would put them on extolling the Felicity of their preſent Condition, and the certain Happineſs that awaits them hereafter, in reward of temporary Inconveniencies and fancied Evils: for they could be no other, conſidering whoſe Spouſe they were, with a great many of the like Conſolations; to avoid which, and not to draw the Reſentment of the Community on them, they carefully diſſemble their Diſcontent, and like the firſt Hypocrite,

Each Perturbation ſmoothe with outward Calm.

We are glad in Summer to resort to the Cloysters of the Convents for a shady Walk, and there are *Piazzas* of a good Length in the principal Street of the Town. I need not say these are much frequented all the hot Months, in a Climate where the shady Side of the Street is very much cooler than that on which the Sun shines, where indeed the Heat is almost suffocating.

For a Winter's Walk, when the Sun is bright (which is here generally the Case) we have the Road to *St. Nicholas*, which is straight, and near a Mile long, reaching from the Wall of the Town to the Sea, near the Entrance of the Harbour. Here stands a Chapel, dedicated to St. *Nicholas*, to which the Sailors resort, that have suffered Shipwreck, to return Thanks for their Preservation, and to hang up *Votive Pictures* (representing the Danger they have escaped) in Gratitude to the Saint for the Protection he vouchsafed them, and in Accomplishment of the Vows they made in the Height of the Storm.

This Custom, which is in Use at present throughout the *Roman-Catholick* World, is taken from the old *Romans*, who had it among a great Number of other Superstitions from the *Greeks*; for we are told that *Bion* the Philosopher was shewn several of these *Votive Pictures* hung up in a Temple of *Neptune* near the Sea-Side. *Horace* alludes to them in the following Passage:

——*Me*

——— *Me tabulâ ſacer*
Votivâ paries indicat uvida
Suſpendiſſe potenti
Veſtimenta maris Deo. Lib. I. Od. 5.

St. *Nicholas* is the preſent Patron of thoſe that lead a ſea-faring Life, (as *Neptune* was of old) and his Churches generally ſtand within Sight of the Sea, and are plentifully ſtocked with theſe pious Moveables.

Near this Church a ſmall Caſtle remains, which was built to defend the Mouth of the Harbour. But whatever its Importance might be in former Times, it is certainly of very little Uſe at preſent, and is incapable of obſtructing the Entrance of the ſmalleſt Frigate we ſend to Sea.

At a little Diſtance from hence we ſee a Rent in the Rock, to which the Sea has made a ſubterraneous Paſſage through ſeveral irregular Caverns. Our Soldiers have given this Hole the Name of *the Devil's Bellows*; and the Noiſe made by the ruſhing in of the Water, at every Surge that beats againſt the Shore, does not a little reſemble that which is made by a large Pair of Bellows.

There is a Convent of the Order of St. *Antonio* a little without the *Mahon* Gate. The Houſe is ſmall, as the Number of the Fryars likewiſe is, yet it is well endowed, and has a decent Chapel; and at a little Diſtance, a very romantick Garden is con-

trived in the Quarry from whence the Stone was drawn with which the Convent was built.

Ciudadella is plentifully ſupplied with Garden-Trade, the far greater Part whereof grows in the *Baranco* to the northward of the Town.

About two Miles North-Weſt of *Ciudadella* ſtands *Toro del Ram*, the Light-Houſe for this Part of the Iſland. But here I muſt caution you, that you may not take theſe Light-Houſes, Signal-Houſes, or *Athalaias* (as they are indifferently called) for Places where Lights are conſtantly kept in the Night, to direct Mariners as they approach the Coaſt; for of ſuch this Iſland is wholly unprovided. Theſe are in Truth no other than Watch-Towers, where Signals are made on the Sight of all Veſſels that paſs within the View of the Signal-Men (as I have already mentioned in my Letter of the 16th of *October* 1740); and in Time of War, if a Fleet draws near the Shore, the Country is alarmed from hence, by a Smoak, if it is in the Day-Time; but if in the Night, by a great Fire.

Few People come to *Ciudadella* with ſo little Curioſity as not to be deſirous of ſeeing *Cova-Perella*, a vaſt natural Cavern in the Rock, about three Miles to the Southward of the Town. Its Entrance is narrow and ſteep, but it widens every Way as you deſcend, and the Light of your Torches diſcovers the Mouths of ſeveral leſſer Caves, that have a Communication

Communication with the Principal one. In moſt of theſe Cells the Water (which is copiouſly impregnated with a Sparry Matter) perpetually drips from the irregular Prominences of the Roof, and forms an infinite Number of *Stalactitæ*, or Stony-Icicles, of the Colour of brown Sugar-Candy, for which it has been ſometimes miſtaken, and of a vaſt Variety of Figures. Theſe *Stalactitæ* are all compoſed of divers Coats or Cruſts, of very little Luſtre or Tranſparence; and as ſome of them are no bigger than a Gooſe's Quill, others are immenſely large, and combining together, form vaſt Columns of the *Gothick* Kind, that ſeem at preſent to ſupport the Roof of this ſtrange Cave, as they will in all Likelihood fill up its whole Space in a long Run of Years.

One may eaſily obſerve the ſeveral Gradations in the Progreſs of theſe Petrifactions (if we may ſo call them). In ſome Places we ſee ſmall Capitals deſcending from the Roof, and making their Way downwards, while proportionable Baſes are riſing underneath, as the Spar concretes that diſtils through the Rock, and drops from above. In other Places, not only the Baſe and Capital, but the Shaft itſelf of the Column, is likewiſe ſeen; ſome very imperfectly, and others compleated to a rude Reſemblance of the *Gothick* Style of Columns; that is, they form together a huge Compages of leſſer Pillars, adhering to each other. Theſe Maſſes have probably been a great

many Ages in advancing to their preſent Bulk; and though they are ever increaſing, their Growth is ſo ſlow, that many more Ages muſt paſs, before the whole Cavern is filled up by them.

Great Quantities of theſe ſparry Concretions lie under Foot every where, to a conſiderable Depth; not that they were ever rent from the Roof by Earthquakes, which ſeldom happen here; or looſened by Froſts, or disjoined by the Winds, being ſecured from the Operations of both by their Situation ſo far below the Surface of the Ground; but the younger Shoots, gradually increaſing in Bulk, have thruſt the old ones from their Places, and overſpread the Floor with their glittering Ruins. I have been the more Particular in what I have ſaid of *Cova-Perella*, as there is here a greater Abundance of theſe Bodies than I ever ſaw together in any other Place.

We are conſtantly carried from hence to a neighbouring *Cove*, where is little remarkable to be ſeen beſides a Pool of limpid Water, which many People ſuppoſe to have a Communication with the Sea; and, indeed, not without Reaſon, as the Water is ſalt.

As I walked on the Rocks at the Sea-Side, near theſe ſubterraneous Regions, I obſerved in the Sand a conſiderable Mixture of the ſmall Fragments of red Coral; though that is ſeldom ſeen by our Fiſhermen, whilſt intire Trees of the white Kind are every Day brought

to

to Light (not by Deſign, for here is no Coral-Fiſhery, but) in caſting their Nets for Flat-Fiſh, they are torn from the Rocks, and ſo brought up. Theſe Fragments are thrown up from the Sea in hard weſterly Winds, and then the *Cavall-Marin* (as the *Minorquins* call the *Hippocampus*, or *Sea-Horſe*) is no Rarity, and ſometimes we find the *Stella-Marina Arboreſcens*, but much injured, by being beat againſt the rugged Rocks on the Shore.

Theſe *Coves* are ſituate in a very barren Spot, if we only regard the Intereſts of the Farmer; yet here is the greateſt Plenty and the greateſt Variety of beautiful Marbles, with a vaſt Number of Foſſile Shells, that are to be found in any one Part of the Iſland of *Minorca*.

And now, Sir, I have finiſhed the *Topographical* Part of my Taſk. What remains, I have thrown into ſome Method, and ſhall diſpatch it to you as faſt as I can. In the mean Time, do me the Juſtice to be perſwaded that I am with a zealous and unalterable Friendſhip,

Your, &c.

LETTER VIII.

SIR, MINORCA, 2 *May*, 1741.

IT is pleaſant to conſider the vaſt Solemnity with which Hiſtorians uſually ſet out in giving us the Original of their Nation, and the Phlegm with which they wreſt the doubtful Paſſages of obſcure Authors, and warp them into notable Proofs of a fancied Deſcent from the Heroes of the moſt remote Ages. Yet there are but few Nations in the World that can clearly make out their Pretenſions to the Antiquity they claim; and it is probable the firſt Planters of Countries were too buſily employed in clearing the Ground of its Incumbrances, and diſpoſing it to produce the Neceſſaries of Life for their Suſtenance, to ſpend much Time in minuting down their Tranſactions, for the Information of their Poſterity. Thus an imperfect Tradition was left to ſupply the Place of Hiſtory, and this coming in Proceſs of Time to be corrupted by Error, and clouded by Fiction, involved their Original in an impenetrable Obſcurity: Inſtead therefore of attempting to throw Light on ſuch Paſſages and Events, I imagine it would be more ſatisfactory to the Generality of Readers, to have the Courſe of Things traced from Periods of greater Certainty, and to view Matters of Fact eſtabliſhed on leſs queſtionable Authorities; and hereby a Number of fine

fine Conjectures and ingenious Hypotheſes would be excluded from Hiſtory (whoſe Buſineſs is Truth) and reſerved for the Embelliſhment of Works of Curioſity and Amuſement, whereof, it muſt be acknowledged, they conſtitute the principal Ornament.

The *Balearick* Authors are not without their Share of this national Vanity, and deduce their Original from a certain Race of *Giants*, who, as they pretend, poſſeſſed this Country long before the Reign of *Gerion*, its firſt King, as well as the firſt Monarch of all *Spain*.

However that may be, it is probable enough that they were a conſiderable Nation when they firſt came under the Power of the *Carthaginians*, 452 Years before the *Chriſtian Æra*. Theſe Strangers built them three Towns in the Iſland of *Minorca*, calling them, after the Names of three of their moſt famous Captains, *Magon*, now *Mahon*, *Jama*, undoubtedly *Ciudadella*, and *Labon*. Of the laſt, *ipſæ periere ruinæ*, for there are no Remains at this Day to give the leaſt Indication of the Place where it was founded, unleſs we pitch upon *Alaior*, on account of its Situation not a great Way from the Centre of the Iſland, convenient for Travellers, on their Journey from one Port-Town to the other. And indeed there is ſomething in the modern Name that ſtrongly marks *Labon* for the Original, from whence it was corrupted;

firſt into *Lavon* (the Nations in this Part of the World confounding the *b* and the *v* together) then *Laion*, *Laior*, and at laſt *Alaior*.

As for *Ciudadella*, I have not the leaſt Doubt but that it was the *Jama* of the *Carthaginians* (though *Dameto* places it at ſome Diſtance from hence, not conſidering that there are no Ruins, or any other Traces of a Town, any where near it, to countenance his Opinion) and might have its preſent Name given it by the *Spaniards*, when they new-built moſt of the Walls with Baſtions and Curtains *à la moderne*. St. *Severus*, Biſhop of *Minorca* (in his noted Epiſtle, dated 13 *Feb. A. D.* 423, and printed at Length in *Dameto*'s Hiſtory of the *Balearick* Kingdom) ſays, the City of *Jamnon* (for ſo it was then changed from *Jama*) ſtood at the weſt, and *Magon* at the eaſt End of the Iſland; that the latter was at that time a *Municipal* City of the *Romans*; and that theſe two Towns were thirty *Roman* Miles aſunder; which agrees perfectly well with the preſent Diſtance between *Ciudadella* and *Mahon*.

Mela (who was himſelf a *Balearian*) ſpeaking of the two Cities in *Minorca*, *Mago*, and *Jamno*, ſays they were at firſt probably no more than Forts, or Caſtles; "but (ſay the Authors of the General "Hiſtory, Vol. vii. Part 1.) as they ſeem to "have been both built near the Mouths of

"two

" two convenient Harbours, which are in " this Iſland, it is hardly to be doubted but " theſe ſoon grew into conſiderable Sea- " Ports, eſpecially that of *Mago*." Theſe Gentlemen ſay, " the *Phœnicians* were the " firſt that poſſeſſed the *Baleares*, and held " them till *Q. Metellus* brought them under " the *Roman* Yoke." But ſurely they were peopled before.

As to the Original of the Name of theſe *Balearick* Iſlands, ſome ſay they had it from the *Greek* Word βάλλειν, to throw, the Natives being famous Slingers: But *Bochart*, with greater probability derives it from *Baal* and *Jarah*, two *Carthaginian* Words of the ſame Signification.

It is not eaſy to determine which of the *Carthaginians* of the Name of *Mago* built *Mahon*; yet as the elder *Mago* (to whom the *Balearick* Hiſtory aſcribes this Honour) continued but a ſhort time in the Iſland, it is more probable that *Mahon* was indebted for its Foundation to *Mago* the Brother of *Hannibal*, who reſided here ſeveral Years.

Theſe Iſlands continued under the Dominion of *Carthage*, until that Commonwealth was ſubverted by the *Romans*; and during this Period *Hamilcar* is ſaid to have come into *Minorca*, having with him his Wife, who was here delivered of the famous *Hannibal*, one of the greateſt Generals that ever lived. The *Balearians* were employed in great Numbers in the *Carthaginian* Armies, and were

were juſtly famous for their Dexterity at the Sling, which it is thought was of their own Invention. Many of them ſerved under *Hannibal*, when he defeated the *Romans* at the Lake *Tharaſymenus*, and after at *Cannæ*; and they were ſtationed, among the other Mercenaries, in his Vanguard, at the Battle of *Zama*.

Theſe Iſlands followed the Fate of *Carthage*, and about the Year 212, *ante J. C.* ſubmitted themſelves to the Power of the *Romans*, by the Management of *Scipio*. They afterwards ſided with *Pompey* againſt *Cæſar*. Upon the Diviſion which *Auguſtus* made of *Spain*, into Provinces, he annexed them to the *Provincia Bætica*: It was in his Reign that the *Balearians* petitioned for a Force to deſtroy the Rabbets, that were multiplied here to ſuch a Degree, that they had eat up the Corn, and thereby cauſed a Famine. Theſe People continued firmly attached to their *Roman* Maſters until the Empire declined; and hither many of the *Roman* Delinquents were baniſhed at different Times, and for different Crimes.

The barbarous Northern Nations, the *Alans*, *Vandals*, and *Suevi*, having expelled the *Romans* out of *Spain* under the Emperor *Honorius*, poſſeſſed theſe Iſlands in their Turn. And, as the *Romans* had planted their Religion here on the Ruin of that of the *Carthaginians*, ſo the *Remains* of theirs gave way to the Worſhip of the Barbarians, who

who were at firſt *Arian* Chriſtians, but afterwards became Orthodox. For, that there were many Chriſtians (as well as Jews) in *Minorca*, while it was under the Power of the *Romans*, is ſufficiently evident from the before-cited Epiſtle of *Severus*. Theſe Northern People, were ſoon reinforced from the Continent of *Spain*, by freſh Colonies of *Huns* and *Viſigoths*, who perfectly agreed with them in the Hatred they bore to the *Roman* Name; ſo all together ſet zealouſly about deſtroying every Monument of the Pagan Magnificence; Temples, Altars, Statues, fell before them.

See, the Cirque falls, th' unpillar'd Temple nods,
Streets pav'd with Heroes, Tyber choak'd with Gods. Dunciad.

They here eſtabliſhed a new Form of Government (and new Laws were inſtituted) and continued Maſters from the Year of our Lord 421, until the *Saracens* diſpoſſeſſed them, *A. D.* 697, or, as others affirm, 790, when our Iſlands were totally ſubdued by theſe Infidels.

But theſe *Saracens*, or *Moors*, as they had kept the Northern Men in conſtant Inquietude, by the Alarms they gave, and the Deſcents they made on their Coaſts, were themſelves grievouſly haraſſed by the Chriſtian Princes, who being either moved by the Pope,

Pope, or excited by their own Ambition to extend the Bounds of their Dominions, made ſeveral Attempts on the *Balearick* Iſlands, though with various Succeſs. *Charlemagne* conquered them in the Year 801, and drove out the *Moors*, who nevertheleſs recovered them again into their Hands in 807. After this many bloody Battles were fought, both by Sea and Land, between the Chriſtians and the *Moors*, and theſe laſt maintained their Poſſeſſion until King *James* the firſt of *Arragon* (being ſtung by their continual Depredations at Sea, wherein his Subjects were plundered and carried into Slavery, and particularly incenſed at the ill Treatment of his Miniſter, whom he had ſent to the *Mooriſh* King of *Majorca*, to complain of theſe Injuries) reſolved on an Expedition againſt them. In Order hereto, he aſſembled together an Army of about twenty thouſand Men, including the Adventurers from *Provence*, *Genoa*, and other Countries, that joined themſelves with his Subjects and their Allies in this Enterprize, and ſetting Sail from the Port of *Salou* * on the firſt of *September*, *A. D.* 1229, in a few Days landed his Troops in the Iſland of *Majorca*, and after ſome ſharp Skirmiſhes with the *Moors*, ſate down before *Palma*, the Capital, which, after a long Siege, he took by Aſſault on the thirty-firſt of *December* following. The victorious Monarch having ſettled all Matters in

* In *Catalonia*.

in the Iſland to his Satisfaction, and rewarded his Soldiers and the Adventurers with the Lands of the vanquiſhed *Moors*, returned in Triumph to the Continent.

The King, returning to *Majorca* in 1232, reſolved to make himſelf Maſter of *Minorca*, the leſſer *Balearick* Iſland; but to prevent the Effuſion of Blood, he firſt tried what was to be done in the way of Negotiation: Accordingly he ſent Deputies to *Ciudadella*, the Capital of the Iſland, who demanded in his Name that the Country ſhould be forthwith ſurrendered to him; promiſing his Royal Protection to the Inhabitants, if they complied, and threatening them with every Effect of his ſevere Diſpleaſure, if they refuſed. And the better to intimidate the *Minorquin Moors*, and to ſhorten their Deliberations on this important Buſineſs, he cauſed great Lights to be made on that Part of the Coaſt of *Majorca* that was oppoſite to *Ciudadella*, and full in the View of the *Moors*; which ſo far wrought on them (thinking a great Army was aſſembled there ready to invade their Country) that they preſently determined to ſubmit themſelves to his Majeſty's Obedience; and accordingly the *Almoxariffe*, attended by ſome of the principal Inhabitants, waited on the King in *Majorca*, and paid his Homage, binding himſelf to hold the Iſland of *Minorca* for the Time to come of the Conqueror, and to pay him a ſtipulated yearly Tribute for his Protection.

The

The Conqueror afterwards, *A. D.* 1256, made a Partition of his Dominions, giving to Don *Pedro*, his eldeſt Son, the Kingdoms of *Arragon* and *Valencia*, and other States, and to Don *James*, his Second Son, the Iſlands of *Majorca*, *Minorca*, and *Yvica*, and ſome Provinces on the Continent, with the Title of King of *Majorca*; and put them into immediate Poſſeſſion of their reſpective Territories. But this Diviſion gave a great deal of Offence to Don *Pedro*, who thought his Father had favoured his younger Brother too much; and his Hatred to Don *James* being fomented by certain evil-minded Perſons, as is uſual in ſuch Caſes, increaſed to ſuch a Pitch, that nothing leſs than ſeizing on his Dominions could ſatisfy his Reſentment. But he did not ſurvive his aged Father long enough to accompliſh his Deſign, though, under Colour of making an Attempt on the *African* Coaſt, he put into *Mahon* Harbour, where he brought the *Moors* to ſubmit the Iſland to him. He died not a great while after his Return to *Spain*, leaving Don *Alphonſo*, his Son, Heir to his Kingdoms and to his Reſentment.

King *Alphonſo* conſidered the *Minorcan Moors* as a piratical State, whom he reſolved to extirpate; accordingly he got together a great Army, with all the Secrecy and Expedition he could, and equipped a vaſt Fleet, to tranſport it for the Conqueſt of this Iſland.

But

But theſe extraordinary Preparations could not be made without alarming the *Almoxariffe*, who procured conſiderable Succours from his Friends in *Barbary*, and omitted nothing that was neceſſary to enable him to make a vigorous Reſiſtance.

In 1287, therefore, *Alphonſo* ſet out on his Expedition againſt *Minorca*, and on his Arrival found the *Moors* fully prepared to oppoſe him, and ready to give him Battle: But his Troops exerted ſo determined a Courage in the Engagement, that it ended in his Favour, and the *Moors* were defeated, with a prodigious Slaughter of their Men. Thoſe *Moors*, that eſcaped the Rage of this firſt Battle, were worſted a little after in a bloody Skirmiſh, where many of them loſt their Lives; whereupon the *Almoxariffe*, with the Remains of his Army, retreated to Mount *Agatha*, which, as it was a Poſt of great natural Strength, improved according to the beſt Rules of Art then in Practice, he reſolved to defend to Extremity.

Hither he was followed by the victorious Monarch, who made many courageous Attempts to force the Place, and his People, animated by his Preſence and Example, performed Wonders againſt the Defendants; but the Situation of this Fortreſs on the Summit of a ſteep and very high Mountain, acceſſible only on one Side, where the Way was ſo narrow and difficult, that a Handful of Men could oppoſe a whole Army, with the

the deſperate Valour of the *Moors*, kept them long at a Diſtance, and left them no other Hopes of getting the Caſtle into their Hands but by ſtarving the Garriſon.

And indeed at length, the *Moors*, having but little Proviſions left, and all their Hopes of Relief from *Barbary* began to fail them, conſented to a Treaty with *Alphonſo*, wherein it was agreed, that the Iſland ſhould be forthwith ſurrendered to him, on Condition that ſuch of them as were able to pay a certain Ranſom, ſhould be tranſported in Safety to *Barbary*, and the reſt to be made Slaves.

In order to carry this Treaty into Execution, the ſame Day that *Agatha* was ſurrendered to the King, which was the ſeventeenth of *January* 1287, the *Almoxariffe* and his Family, with about an hundred other Perſons of Note, were embarked for *Barbary*; but they all periſhed at Sea, or as ſome think, were thrown over-board by the *Arragonian* Seamen that were appointed to conduct them. About twenty thouſand more of theſe vanquiſhed People, who could not pay the Ranſom, became the Slaves of the Conquerors, a ſeverer Fate than that which befel their more wealthy Countrymen, who accompanied the *Almoxariffe*.

Thus the Iſland of *Minorca* was wreſted out of the Hands of the Mahometans by the King of *Arragon*, who planted Colonies of Chriſtians throughout the Country, amongſt whom he diſtributed the Poſſeſſions of the *Moors*,

Moors, to reward them for the Toils and Dangers of the Expedition. And thus ended the Domination of the *Moors* in this Iſland; after it had ſubſiſted almoſt five hundred Years, in ſpite of the repeated Efforts of the Chriſtians, the Exhortations of the Pope, and the many fruitleſs Leagues and Projects that had been formed for its Extinction.

The Seventeenth of *January*, therefore, is the Epocha of the Conqueſt of *Minorca*, and is obſerved here as a high Feſtival in Honour of King *Alphonſo*; as the thirty-firſt of *December* likewiſe is, in Commemoration of King *James* the Firſt's taking the City of *Palma*, in *Majorca*, by Aſſault, in Conſequence of which, the *Moors* were driven from that Iſland. On both of them ſolemn Proceſſions are made, and a great deal of Pageantry is exhibited, to the great Satisfaction of the *Minorquins*, who are apt to be extremely delighted with every kind of Spectacle and Show. The Perſons who repreſent theſe conquering Kings and their Warriors, always put me in mind of thoſe that ſo worthily repreſent our King *John* and his Courtiers every Year at *Horn-Fair*.

Notwithſtanding the violent Hatred which the *Spaniards* bore to the *Moors*, they ſuffered a great Number of the Names of Places in *Minorca* to continue the ſame that were given them by that People; thoſe that begin with *Ben*, or *Bini*, are numerous (*Ben* in *Arabic* ſignifies Son, *Bini* the Sons or Deſcendants of)

of) as are thoſe that have *Rafal* joined to them, for ſo the *Moors* called a Houſe or Farm that was contiguous to a City; and many more.

In the Reign of *Peter* the Third of *Arragon*, A. D. 1343, theſe Iſlands were formally annexed to the Crown of *Arragon*. But they enjoyed but little Peace, from the Time the *Moors* were expelled from them, for ſeveral Ages; that reſtleſs People were ever projecting Invaſions, and making Deſcents, to pillage the Inhabitants, and carry them into Slavery: And yet it does not appear that they ever after made any Armament with a View of recovering the Iſlands once more into their Poſſeſſion, though many Opportunities muſt have preſented themſelves, during the Diſtractions in the *Arragonian* Affairs, in a long Courſe of Years, as well as ſince the ſeveral Kingdoms of *Spain* have been united under one Head.

Thus have I traced the Hiſtory of *Minorca* from the earlieſt Accounts to the Period when it was quietly ſettled under the Kings of *Spain*, rejecting all that was trivial or fabulous in the Writers I had an Opportunity to conſult, and carefully inſerting every material Incident that occurred in my little Reading, that had a Tendency to illuſtrate the Tranſactions of a People little treated of, and conſequently little known. For the *Spaniſh* Authors, however voluminous they are, give little Inſight into the Hiſtory of this Iſland, which they have

either wholly omitted in their Books (as ſome of them have done) or confounded it with that of the greater Iſland. Even the two *Majorcan* Hiſtorians, *Dameto* and his Continuator *Mut*, from whom one would think a good deal of Information was to be expected on the Subject, are both of them ſo taken up with relating every minute Circumſtance that relates to their own Iſland, that they furniſh very little Matter for the Civil Hiſtory of *Minorca*.

How this Iſland came into the Hands of the *Engliſh*, a few Words will be ſufficient to relate: The Tranſaction was ſhort, and ſo ſhall the Hiſtory be.

Upon the Reduction of *Sardinia*, and the Return of the Fleet to the Coaſt of *Catalonia*. Major-General *Stanhope* projected an Expedition for the Conqueſt of the Iſland of *Minorca*, then garriſoned by the *French* and *Spaniards* for King *Philip*.

He accordingly procured the neceſſary Orders for embarking a Body of Troops amounting to two thouſand ſix hundred Men (for ſo it was given out, though in reality there were not more than two thouſand) twelve hundred of whom were *Britiſh*, including the Marines, ſix hundred *Portugueze*, and the reſt *Spaniſh*; theſe were put under his Command, and arrived at the Iſland on the fourteenth of *September* 1708, N. S.

They met with a great deal of Difficulty in landing and tranſporting the heavy Artillery

in

in ſo rocky a Country, where there were but few Beaſts of Burthen that they could come at; yet with continual Labour they brought their whole Train (conſiſting of forty two Guns and fifteen Mortars) in twelve Days Time, to the Ground, where they intended to employ them.

In the mean while, *Fornelles* Caſtle was briſkly attacked by Captain *Butler* in the *Dunkirk*, who got into the Harbour two Hours before the *Centurion*, Captain *Fairborn* (which was diſpatched with him from the Fleet) and fired thirty-ſix Barrels of Powder againſt the Caſtle, which made a gallant Defence. But the Garriſon, finding the *Centurion* was able to get in, and had begun a warm Fire on them, thought proper to ſurrender themſelves Priſoners of War, having had but one Man killed and four wounded, whereas the Ships had eleven killed and about ſixty wounded. The Garriſon conſiſted of about fifty Men, and had twelve Guns mounted for its Defence.

This Succeſs intimidated the Garriſon of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle, and contributed a good deal to haſten its Surrender to the Confederates.

On the Twenty-eighth, at Break of Day, the General opened a Battery of nine Guns againſt the two middlemoſt Towers that defended a Line the Enemy had lately made, and beat them down, making ſome Breaches in the Line-Wall itſelf (which was no difficult

cult Taſk, as it was haſtily run up with looſe Stones, without Mortar) which the General reſolved to have attacked the next Day, if he had not been prevented by what happened in the mean while.

For Brigadier *Wade*, being poſted at ſome Diſtance on the Right, with two Battalions, ſome of his Grenadiers entered the Line without Orders, which the Brigadier no ſooner perceived, than he advanced with all the Men he could ſuddenly get together to ſuſtain them.

When the General heard their Fire, he marched the ordinary Guard of the Battery up to that Part of the Line that was neareſt, which put the Enemy into ſo great a Conſternation, that they immediately abandoned the two other Towers (which could not have been taken without Cannon) and retired precipitately within the Works of the Caſtle.

The Allies lodged themſelves the ſame Evening at the Foot of the *Glacis* of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle, and traced out their main Battery; but the next Morning the Enemy beat a Parley, and a Treaty enſued, that ended in a Capitulation, which was ſigned at five of the Clock that Afternoon; in conſequence of which, the General took Poſſeſſion of the Place on the Thirtieth, and found the Garriſon to conſiſt of one thouſand Men under Arms, Part of whom were to be tranſported into *France*, and the reſt of them to *Spain*.

The

The Loſs of the Confederates was inconſiderable, and did not exceed forty Men, killed and wounded; among the former was the brave Captain *Stanhope* of the *Milford*, already mentioned in my Letter of the Seventeenth of *Auguſt* 1740.

We are told this Caſtle was built by *Charles* the Fifth, repaired and beautified by *Philip* the Second, and enlarged by *Philip* the Fourth.

A Detachment of Foot was ſent to *Ciudadella*, which immediately ſurrendered; and here a Garriſon of one hundred Men were made Priſoners of war.

Thus the whole Iſland was happily reduced under the Obedience of King *Charles*.

In *St. Philip*'s Caſtle were found one hundred great Guns, and three thouſand Barrels of Powder, with every Thing neceſſary to ſuſtain a Siege.

Brigadier *Petit*, the Engineer, a *French Refugee*, was made Governor of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle for the King of *Spain*. He ſoon after built a large Battery for the Defence of *Mahon* Harbour; and Brigadier *Durand* began to fortify on the *Cape-Mola* Side, of which I have already given you ſome Account in a former Letter.

After this Manner the Iſland of *Minorca* came into the Poſſeſſion of the Allies; and a very valuable Acquiſition it was, on every Account, eſpecially its excellent Port, which immediately became the ordinary Rendez-

vous

vous of the *Britiſh* Fleet in the *Mediterranean*. For here they could aſſemble as many Ships as they pleaſed in the utmoſt Secrecy, without having their Deſtination diſcovered to the Enemy, as was likely enough to happen in the Harbours of the Continent. Here too they were a kind of Curb on the *French*, and other maritime Powers. But among the ſeveral Advantages that redounded to the *Britiſh* Nation from this Conqueſt, it raiſed their Figure in thoſe Parts, and gave the *Moors* and the *Italian* States an Idea of them more favourable than they had entertained before, and rendered them more tractable in certain Negociations that enſued, than they would poſſibly have been, if this Enterprize had not been crowned with Succeſs.

On the Peace of *Utrecht*, *Minorca* was yielded to us, and has ever ſince remained quietly in our Hands.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER IX.

SIR, MINORCA, 27 *June* 1741.

THERE cannot be a more lively Inſtance of the Force of Cuſtom and of

the Infatuation of Mankind, than that the Natives of this Iſland, groaning under every Oppreſſion, and by every Wile and Subtilty of wicked and avaricious Men, reduced to a State of Slavery and Want hardly to be equalled, ſhould yet inſiſt with Mr. *Stanhope*, that they ſhould continue to be governed by their old Laws, without the leaſt Infringement or Alteration. This, and the free Exerciſe of their Religion, were granted them by the Capitulation, and they enjoy them in the ſame Latitude as before, to the no ſmall Satisfaction of their Prieſts and Lawyers, whoſe Counſel it is likely they followed at that time, as they have been implicitly conducted by it ever ſince.

The Court of *Spain* has never been over nice in the Choice of the Perſons to whom it has committed the Government of its Provinces. The vicious Favourite of a Courtier, worn out in the Drudgery of pimping and Flattery, is rewarded for his Services by an honourable Retirement; a Grandee who has impoveriſhed himſelf in ſplendid Embaſſies to the ſeveral *European* Courts, has an Opportunity given him at laſt of plundering a whole People to retrieve his broken Fortunes; or an old Soldier, whoſe Merit and Pretenſions have been long overlooked, and what is very common in *Spain*, whoſe Arrears amount to a Sum which a Miniſter either cannot readily diſcharge, or perhaps does not chuſe to diſcharge at all, is ſent out a Governor, and left

to

to pay himſelf. In all theſe Caſes it is eaſy to ſee what is to become of the Subjects: If they are obedient and paſſive, they are ſuffered to enjoy ſome Part of their Property in Quiet; if they complain, they are not heard, and if they reſiſt, they are undone.

And though theſe Iſlands have been at different times delivered up to the Pillage of ſome of the moſt conſuming Tyrants that ever diſgraced human Nature by ſeeming to be of the Species, the *Minorquins* fatally miſſed a favourable Opportunity of becoming Partakers of all the various Benefits of the mildeſt Conſtitution of Government upon Earth. For at the Time that the Treaty of *Utrecht* yielded their Country to *Great-Britain*, if they had made Application that they might for the future be governed according to our Laws, I make no doubt but their Requeſt would have been readily complied with.

What ſurprizes us moſt in their neglecting to take this Salutary Step, is the Information they muſt have received of the Advantages that muſt have unavoidably attended ſuch a Privilege. However that is, they continue their old Conſtitution, and, as one Conſequence of it, pay a multitude of Taxes and Impoſitions to the Publick, and have ſuch Sums extorted from them for the Support of their Clergy, as are exceſſively burthenſome and oppreſſive.

Hence it is that the Univerſities * of all the *Terminos* are run into great Debts, which are continually increaſing; and this Poverty of the Publick is by no means recompenſed by the Wealth and Affluence of Particulars, as is the Caſe of *Genoa*, and ſome other Countries; for their Contributions to the Expences of the Government, are of themſelves ſufficient to impoveriſh them; beſides which they are loaded with a numerous Race of idle Locuſts, black, white, and grey, that ſit heavy on their Induſtry, and after all traffick with them, as our Merchants do with the Savages, exchanging Beads, Pictures, and Baubles, for every Thing of Value they have in the World.

I have in my Cuſtody an authentick Paper, that contains a State of the Capital Debts of all the *Terminos* of the Iſland, which I will tranſcribe in this place for your Satisfaction.

The *Termino* of *Mahon* owes, Principal-Money.

	Livres.	*Sols.*	*Dineros.*
- - -	43014	8	0
Alaior, - - - -	12188	0	0
Mercadal and *Fererias*	12938	13	0
Ciudadella - - - -	54458	11	1
Total - - -	122199	12	1

* By Univerſities here, are not to be underſtood Colleges, or Seminaries, for Education or Learning, but the governing Part of the Magiſtrates in every *Termino*, by whom Taxes are laid on the People, and the publick Treaſure is diſpoſed of.

Which

Which Sum is in Sterling-Money,

£ 18330 0 0

There is yearly raiſed in the ſeveral *Terminos*,

	Livres.	*Sols.*	*Din.*
Of *Mahon* - - -	7717	5	0
—*Alaior* - - - -	2834	11	9
—*Mercadal* and *Fererias* -	1785	1	4
—*Ciudadella* - - - -	9063	16	11
Total - - - - -	21400	15	0

Or in Sterling-Money £ 3210 0 0 nearly.

Their Rate of Intereſt is 8 *per Cent.* ſo that it requires no leſs than £ 1466 8 0 Sterling (a vaſt Sum in this Country) to pay the Intereſt of the above Principal-Money, as it becomes due every Year: The Remainder, that is, £ 1743 12 0, is equally neceſſary to be raiſed for the Support of the publick Officers, and the Charge of providing the Troops with Quarters, Wood and Oil, and Beaſts and Veſſels for removing their Baggage, as they are ſhifted from Garriſon to Garriſon.

The Conſtitution by which the Iſland of *Majorca* is governed, was copied by King *James* the Firſt from that of his Kingdom of *Arragon*, and introduced there ſoon after the Conqueſt; as that of *Minorca* was eſtabliſhed here by King *Alphonſo*, on his reducing this Iſland to his Obedience. Both have undergone ſome Alterations (tho' in the mean they

are agreeable enough to the firſt Inſtitution) and they differ little from each other, except that all the Magiſtrates of this Iſland are ſubordinate to thoſe of *Majorca*. Theſe Iſlands have loſt the Privilege they once enjoyed, of being repreſented by their Deputies in the *Cortes* of *Arragon*, *Catalonia*, &c. for having ſometimes forborne to ſend them, when they were unable to bear the Expence.

The Court of Royal-Government is the principal Tribunal of the Iſland, in all Cauſes wherein the Crown is concerned (except ſuch as regard the Royal Patrimony) in all Matters relating to the *Jurats* of the ſeveral Univerſities, or *Terminos*, and in all criminal Caſes; hither Appeals are made from the inferior Courts.

The Governor preſides at this Court, and all the Proceedings are in his Name. He is obliged to attend in Perſon at the Tryal of Criminals; but in Civil Caſes of little Moment, his Preſence is diſpenſed with.

He is aſſiſted by two Officers of the Court, an *Aſſeſſor* and *Fiſcal*: The firſt is his Counſellor, to manage the Tryals; the other is Advocate for the Crown. Theſe ſign the Sentence with the Governor.

When the Governor abſents himſelf from the Tryal of Civil Cauſes of ſmall Importance, the *Aſſeſſor* is the chief Judge, and ſigns the Decree alone, in the Governor's Name; for the *Fiſcal* is not properly a Judge in Civil Affairs.

In

In Cauſes where the *Aſſeſſor* is known to be concerned in Intereſt, or where he is liable to be biaſſed by Enmity, Friendſhip, or Kindred, the Governor may appoint another Lawyer (againſt whom theſe Objections do not lie) to officiate in his Room.

There is a *Procurador-Real* to attend the Court, and inform them of ſuch Matters as are to be brought before them, and to puſh on the Tryal: Other inferior Officers there likewiſe are; an *Eſcrivan*, or Secretary; an *Alguazil*, or Bailiff; a *Macero*, or Mace-Bearer; and a *Carcelero*, or Gaoler. This Court of Royal-Government was ſubordinate to the Court of Royal Audience in *Majorca*.

The Royal-Patrimony, or Crown-Revenue, is regulated by a Council, conſiſting of the *Procurador-Real*, who is the Preſident, the *Aſſeſſor*, and the *Fiſcal*. They hold Inquiries into the concealed Branches of the Revenue, ſee that the *Decimos* (or Dues of the Crown that are paid in kind) are ſold to the beſt Advantage, and ſettle all new *Cencoes* (which are a Sort of Crown-Rent, or yearly Acknowledgment) fixing their Rate.

The *Procurador-Real* is Receiver and Paymaſter of the Royal Patrimony, and holds a Court, in which the *Fiſcal* and *Aſſeſſor* are the Judges; he himſelf having no Vote there.

The *Fiſcal* of the Royal-Government acts in this Court as Judge in Ordinary, and Counſellor to the *Procurador-Real*.

The *Aſſeſſor* of the Royal-Government is likewiſe a Judge in this Court, and the Sentence principally depends upon his Opinion; for though the *Fiſcal* ſhould differ from him, yet he is obliged to ſign the Sentence. Whenever it happens that they are of different Opinions, the Decree is thus worded, "By "the Advice of the *Aſſeſſor*, and the Intra-"vention of the *Fiſcal*;" and the Secretary is to make an Entry of the Proceedings in his Books, and atteſt it.

There is beſides a Deputy-Receiver, who has his Under-Receivers, or Collectors, in the ſeveral *Terminos*.

The *Eſcrivan*, or Secretary, keeps the Records, the *Alguazil* acts as a Catch-pole, to arreſt Delinquents, and the *Sach* is the Porter and Cryer.

The principal Magiſtrates that are ſet over the ſeveral *Terminos*, are the *Jurats*: Thoſe of *Ciudadella* are *Jurats-General* of the whole Iſland. All *Jurats*, whether collectively or ſeparate, are honoured with the Stile of *Senor Magnifico*. Their Office is to lay before the Governor occaſionally all the Grievances and Hardſhips of the People, to the end that they may be redreſſed; and to ſee that the Markets are duly ſupplied with the Neceſſaries of Life.

Tho' the *Jurats* have no executive Power of their own, they may impoſe Taxes on their *Termino*, with the Conſent of their ordinary Council,

Council, to whom they are accountable for the Money so raised.

They had formerly the Privilege of engrossing the Corn, and of settling the *Aforacion*, or Rate at which it was to be sold to the People; but this has been long discontinued.

The *Jurat-Major* is to be always chosen out of the Body of *Cavaliers* (who are all *Donzells*, or Gentlemen, with the Title of *Don*) another out of the *Ciutadans*, or Citizens, another is a *Mercader*, or Merchant, and a fourth is a *Menestral*, or Artisan. To these we may add the *Jurat-Pejez*, who is a Peasant. And thus all the Orders of Men, of which the Inhabitants of every *Termino* are composed, have their proper Representatives among the Magistrates by whom they are governed.

When the *Jurats* have served out their Year, their Successors are elected, and take the necessary Oaths to qualify them to enter on the Administration of their Office. None on whom the Election falls can decline the publick Service, and no one *Jurat* can be chosen two Years successively. The new *Jurats* immediately appoint their Counsellors to assist them.

The *Termino* of *Ciudadella* has a *Jurat-Clavario*, which none of the others have. This Officer is the Publick-Treasurer, and the second *Jurat* in Rank. By him all Matters are proposed at the Meetings of the *Jurats*, and when the Governor comes into the *Termino*,

he is the firſt that is to addreſs him: But when the Magiſtrates attend the Governor at any Place that is without the *Termino*, this Honour belongs to the *Jurat-Major.*

With the *Clavario* all the publick Money is lodged, and his Diſburſements are regulated by the Orders of the *Jurats*, with the Approbation of the Council. At the Cloſe of the Year his Accounts are audited, and the Ballance is paid into the Hands of the new *Clavario.*

When the *Jurats* think it neceſſary to call a General-Council, they apply to the Governor for his Summons; on the Receipt whereof the Deputies of all the *Terminos* aſſemble at *Ciudadella* at the appointed Time. This Council is compoſed of twenty-four Members beſides the *Jurats-General*, which laſt have no Voice, unleſs a *Syndico* * is to be ſent out of the Iſland, and then they are at Liberty to vote in the Choice of the Perſon.

The Buſineſs that uſually employs a General-Council, is to impoſe new Taxes; to enquire whether any *Termino* has paid more than its juſt Proportion to a former Tax; to provide for any extraordinary Expence that is about to be incurred by the Iſland in general; and to take into Conſideration the State of Affairs, and repreſent all Hardſhips and Oppreſſions to the Governor, or even to lay them before

* From *Syndicus*, *Lat.* an Advocate appointed to defend the Rights of any City, People, *&c.*

before the King, for Redreſs; if they are driven ſo far, by having their former Remonſtrances ſlighted by the Governor.

The Governor, or Commander in Chief, cannot aſſemble a General-Council on his own Authority; it can only be convened at the Requeſt of the *Jurats*, who are under no Neceſſity of acquainting him with the Buſineſs that is to be the Subject of their Deliberations, even though their Intention ſhould be to ſend a *Syndico* to the King: But it is cuſtomary, when their own Affairs are once diſpatched to deſire to know if he has any thing to offer for the Service of the Crown. After they are broke up, indeed, the *Fiſcal* of the Royal Government may demand of the *Jurats-General* the Reſolutions of the General-Council, which he is then at Liberty to lay before the Governor: But this ſeems to be an Incroachment of the Prerogative, as it defeats the above Privilege, and renders it of no value.

Any one *Termino* may, at its own Expence, diſpatch a *Syndico* to the King, without applying to the others for their Conſent.

There is a *Bayle* in every *Termino*, who carries his Rod of Juſtice every where within his own *Termino*, but not out of it. He holds a Court, from whence an Appeal lies to the Court of Royal Government.

The *Bayle* of *Ciudadella* has the Appellation of *Bayle-General*, and to him the *Bayles* of the other *Terminos* are in ſome Degree ſubordinate:

ſubordinate: He carries his Rod all over the Iſland.

Heretofore, when a Governor died, the Command of the Iſland devolved on this Officer, and he enjoyed half the Salary until a new Governor arrived. He holds a Court, wherein he is aſſiſted by his *Aſſeſſor*; and here all Cauſes, (except ſome few of a particular Nature) are tried, with an Appeal to the Court of Royal-Government.

The *Bayle-General* is Judge in Ordinary of the whole Iſland, and to him all Proclamations are directed. The Orders of March for the Troops, and the Buſineſs of quartering them, fall to his Province.

All the *Bayles* have their *Lieutenants*. The *Lieutenant* of the *Bayle-General* never carries a Rod in his Preſence, tho' the other *Lieutenant-Bayles* have this Privilege in the Preſence of their reſpective Principals.

The *Bayle-General*'s *Aſſeſſor* is his Counſellor and Aſſiſtant, in all Matters that are brought to a Tryal in his Court.

The *Bayle-Conſul* tries all Cauſes for five *Livres*, and under, in a ſummary way, which keeps a Multitude of trifling Buſineſs out of the ſuperior Courts. All maritime Affairs are brought before him as *Conſul*, and an Appeal from his Deciſions lies to the Governor only.

All the Magiſtrates enter upon their Office annually on *Whit-Sunday*, and take an Oath of Allegiance.

The

The *Almutazen*, or *Muſtaſtaf*, as he is corruptly called, is Clerk of the Markets, whoſe principal Charge is to look to the Weights and Meaſures, of which he is the Judge, as his Title imports, in the *Arabick* Tongue. With the Aſſiſtance of two *Promens*, this Officer keeps a Court, from whence Appeals are made to the Governor. In lieu of a Salary, he is allowed one third of all the Fines and Penalties laid in his Court, a Motive to Vigilance that has its proper Weight in his Breaſt. The *Almutazen* is likewiſe to ſee that the Streets are kept clean, and free from Obſtructions of every kind.

Coroner's Inqueſts are held by the Officers of the Court of Royal-Government, by whom a great many ridiculous Fooleries are practiſed, ſuch as whiſpering the Deceaſed, to know who killed him, and the like.

The Spiritual-Court is at preſent held by the Vicar-General at *Ciudadella* and this Perſon poſſeſſes the higheſt Dignity in the Church of *Minorca*. He has an *Aſſeſſor* to aſſiſt him. Heretofore Tortures were in Uſe here, and there was a Court of Inquiſition. Appeals lay to the Court of Royal Audience in *Majorca*, and finally to the Council of *Arragon*.

This Iſland once had a Biſhop of its own, but Pope *Boniface* the Eighth ſubjected it in Spirituals to *Majorca*, by his Bull dated the Eighteenth of *July*, 1295; and ſo it continued until *Minorca* came into the Hands of the

the *Engliſh*. The Biſhop of *Majorca* drew conſiderable Revenues out of this Iſland, which now go to the Government.

The Governor is now the General Patron, and preſents to all the vacant Benefices. The Rectors of the five Pariſhes that are in the Iſland, receive their *Decimos*, and the inferior Clergy are ſupported by their Maſſes, Collections, Holidays, &c. &c. &c. from whence a comfortable Maintenance ariſes, and they leave no Project unattempted that can contribute to continue and improve it.

The Monks have their Governor abroad, on whom they are dependant, and are here under the Direction of Guardians. The *Auſtin* Fryars of *Mount Toro* have Lands to the Amount of Two hundred and ſixteen Pounds *Sterling* * a Year, in Money, and 256 *Quarteras* of Corn. Every Nun that profeſſes brings two hundred *Livres* into the Convent, about Thirty Pounds Sterling.

In 1713, there were in *Minorca* Eighty-five Nuns, One hundred and forty Fryars, and Seventy-five of the Secular Clergy, in all Three hundred Perſons; and if we take the Number of the Inhabitants at Twenty-ſeven Thouſand Souls, as I think they are, this poor Iſland ſupports in Idleneſs one out of every Ninety of its whole People; whereas *England* has not one Clergyman of the eſtabliſhed Church to three hundred of the Laity: And

* 1444 *Livres* of *Minorca* Currency.

And as theſe in *Minorca* profeſs Celibacy, and are *ſtrict* Patterns of Continence, their Number readily accounts for the Depopulation and Poverty of the Country.

The Royal Patrimony, or Crown Revenue ariſes from ſeveral Taxes and Impoſitions, whereof the Church has a Part.

All Goods that are either exported or imported as Merchandize, pay a certain Duty on their being weighed or meaſured. All the Salt that is made in the Iſland pays one Eleventh of the full Value. One Eleventh Part is likewiſe paid for all Greens, including Barley for Forage, and Tobacco: Only the green Barley that is raiſed by the Farmer for the foraging of his own Beaſts, is exempted from Duty.

Hemp pays one thirteenth Part, and Flax one Fifteenth. All Cattle pay one Fifteenth of their yearly Increaſe, and Grapes one Eleventh.

Corn, whether Barley or Wheat, pays one Eighth. This, it is probable, was the Rate that was at firſt ſettled; but now it actually pays Twelve out of the Hundred, which is one Eighth and an half. To give you at once an Idea of our *Minorca* Harveſts, and that you may be enabled to form a Judgment of the Value of this Tax, I will here ſet down the Quantity of Corn that was raiſed *A. D.* 1736, a Year wherein the Crops were neither remarkably abundant, nor defective.

WHEAT.

WHEAT.

In *Ciudadella Termino* - -	13686 *Quarteras*
— *Mahon* - - - - - -	16212
— *Alaior* - - - - - -	10874
— *Mercadal* and *Ferrerias*	15842
Total of Wheat -	56614

BARLEY.

In *Ciudadella Termino* - -	8392 *Quarteras*
— *Mahon* - - - - - -	5451
— *Alaior* - - - - - -	3619
— *Mercadal* and *Ferrerias*	6620
Total of Barley -	24082

Out of the 56614 *Quarteras* of Wheat produced in *Minorca*, in 1736, the Farmers paid 47 *Quarteras Tax*, which, as the *Aforacion* was that Year at two *Livres* and eight *Sous* the *Quartera*, were worth £ 17 4 0 *Sterling*; and the Barley produced £ 3 5 0 at one *Livre* and twelve *Sous* the *Quartera*.

This ſmall Sum is divided thus: Out of every Hundred *Quarteras*,

	Q	*B*	*M*
The King has - - - - -	7	4	1 $\frac{1}{7}$
The Biſhop and Chapter -	2	3	2 $\frac{4}{7}$
The Rector - - - - -	1	4	1 $\frac{5}{7}$
In all - - - - - - -	12	0	0

Theſe

Theſe Impoſts are ſold every Year by Auction; the Biſhop and Chapter's Part comes now to the Crown.

The other Taxes are, *Cencoes*, or a yearly Rent, or Acknowledgment to the Crown. They are 847 in Number, and being very ſmall and difficult to be collected, they bring in but little. Some of them are under three *Dineros*, and the higheſt but 15 *Livres*.

Eight *Sous* muſt be paid for every Licence to ſell an Eſtate, or appoint Guardians.

All Fines go to the Royal Patrimony; ſo does one Fourth of all the Legacies that are bequeathed to the Church; alſo one Tenth of the Purchaſe-Money, when Houſes or Lands are ſold for ever; and this as often as they are ſold.

This Tax now produces a conſiderable Sum of Money in the Year, eſpecially ſince the *Minorquins* have begun to apply themſelves a little to Trade, by which Fortunes are ſuddenly made, that occaſion frequent Changes in the Property of Lands.

There is ſomething peculiar in the way of collecting this Tax; for firſt one Tenth of the whole Sum is taken, and ſo on, diminiſhing in this Proportion, down to the very loweſt Denomination of Money; ſo that on the Upſhot, there is little leſs than 12 *per Cent.* paid to the Crown on every Alienation of Houſes and Land throughout the Iſland.

Every Mortgager likewiſe pays one Tenth of the Money he takes up on his Eſtate; beſides

ſides the Eight *per Cent.* Intereſt; no ſmall Spur to a ſtrict Frugality in the Land-Owners of *Minorca.* In letting an Eſtate for ever five *Sous* are paid for the Conſent of the Crown. All contraband Goods are forfeited to the King, to whom alſo all Wrecks and Strays belong. When the *Verniſh*-Mines were wrought (about forty Years ago) the Crown had one fifth Part.

The Spirits theſe People drink are imported from abroad, there being no Diſtillery here. The *Stanc* is farmed out, and brings in a conſiderable Addition to the Crown-Revenue. In the Year 1725, and from thence to 1738, incluſive, it amounted in the whole Iſland to £ 925 0 0 *Sterling per Annum*, one Year with another.

The Anchorage of *Mahon*-Harbour in 1720, produced Eight Hundred Dollars; it has diminiſhed ſince gradually, ſo as to have been, *Anno* 1737, no more than Two Hundred and Eight Dollars.

The whole Revenue is about 27000 *Livres*, or £ 4050 0 0 *Sterling* a Year; out of which ſeveral Sums are paid in Salaries, *&c.* as amounting to near Twelve Hundred Pounds a Year; the Remainder is conſtantly remitted to the Treaſury in *England.*

There were heretofore certain Impoſitions, which (tho' they are now no longer in Uſe) it may not be amiſs juſt to mention to you. The Crown had a Fifth of all Prizes taken at Sea, and Ten *Livres* for every *Moor.* In all Bargains

Bargains Three *Dubleros* in a *Real* were paid, both by the Buyer and Seller; and every Ship that entered *Port-Mahon*, paid Twenty-four *Reals* for Anchorage, *Setias* Twelve, or Six *Reals*, according to their Tonnage, and Twenty *Reals* a Day *Quarentine*-Fees.

I ſhall now give you ſome Idea of the Coins, Weights, and Meaſures that are uſed here, that you may the more readily comprehend the foregoing Calculations.

The Troops are paid in *Johanneſes* and *Moydores*, and the Parts of them, ſo that we rarely ſee any Gold here but that of *Portugal*. The *Johannes* goes for Nineteen *Dollars*, a *Moydore* for Seven *Dollars* and a *Real*. The Silver is altogether *Spaniſh Dollars* and the Parts of them. This is the old *Plate Dollar*, leſs in Value than the *Mexican*, or *Pillar Dollar*, this laſt going for Ten *Reals*. The *Dollar* is worth Three Shillings and Six-pence, or Three Shillings and Eight-pence, *Engliſh* Money, according to the Fluctuation of Exchange.

The Copper Coins are *Spaniſh*, and conſiſt of *Treſettas*, *Dubleros*, and *Dineros*. The *Dublero* is the moſt frequent of theſe Coins, and was, I believe, almoſt the only Specie that was current in the Iſland before it came into our Hands; for when the *Minorquins* would ſignify to you that a Man is very rich, they for the moſt Part expreſs themſelves after this Manner; *te mult de Dublés*, he has a great many *Dubleros*.

The

The Proportion which theſe Coin bear to one another appears in the following Table.

Dinero	Dublero	Treſetta	Real	Peſterine, or Piaſtrine	
2					
6	3				
36	18	6			
72	36	12	2		
288	144	48	8	4	Dollar. or Piece of Eight.

This is according to our Account, for the Natives compute by *Livres*, *Sous*, and *Dineros*; twelve *Dineros* make a *Sou*, and twenty *Sous* a *Livre*; which is equal to ſeven *Reals* and a *Dublero*, or Three Shillings within leſs than a Farthing, *Engliſh* Money.

Beſides the *Dubleros* above mentioned, we have ſtill remaining no inconſiderable Number, which are of a mixed Metal, and a whitiſh Hue, which they owe to a Mixture of Tin. Theſe are truly the Coins of the *Balearick* Kingdom, ſtruck in *Majorca*, by Virtue of a Licence from King *James* the Second, of whom I have had Occaſion to treat in the foregoing Letter, who granted a Mint to theſe Iſlands for Silver and Copper, *A. D.* 1300.

The *Real*, as I hear, went only for ſeventeen *Dubleros*, until Colonel *Pinfold*, a few Years ſince, when the Command of the Iſland devolved on him as the ſenior Officer, on the Death of Brigadier *Kane*, raiſed it to eighteen; and tho' he was cenſured by ſome People for this Meaſure, it certainly made Silver more Plenty in the Country than it had been before,

by

by taking away one Temptation of exporting it, and conſequently affording Encouragement to bring it in.

It has been my Fortune to ſee ſeveral of the Silver Coins of the Workmanſhip of the *Majorcan* Mint; their Currency has been long at an End, but I have one of them, in my Poſſeſſion.

The Weights and Meaſures ſtill in Uſe here were eſtabliſhed by King *James* the Third, which I chooſe to give you in Tables, as they preſent themſelves to View at once, and are underſtood as ſoon as they are ſeen.

Ounce, equal to one Ounce and Six Grains *Troy*.

12	Short Pound	
36	3	Long Pound
1248	104	34 $\frac{2}{3}$ *Quintal*, equal to 91 *lb.* 8 oz *Aver.*

A *Rove* is one Fourth of the *Quintal*.

Long-Meaſure.

Inch		
8	Palm, equal to 7 Inches and 3 qrs. *Engliſh*.	
64	8	Cane.

All Maſons Work, whether Superficial or Solid, is meaſured by the *Cane*, which is equivalent to five Feet and two Inches *Engliſh*.

Dry-Meaſure.

Mut	
6	Berſella
36	6 *Quartera*, equal to two Buſhels and one Eighth *Engliſh*.

Theſe Meaſures are ſtriked when Corn is ſold, but when Pulſe is to be diſpoſed of, they are heaped.

Liquid-

Liquid-Measure.

Quartillo			
5 1/4	Barillon		
21	4	Cargo	
84	16	4	*Bota* or Butt, equal to 133 Gallons of *Engliſh* Wine-Meaſure.

I will now leave you to your Thoughts on the Matter of this long Letter, and beg you would aſſure yourſelf that

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER X.

SIR, MINORCA, 3 *Auguſt*, 1741.

THE Proſperity of every trading People is well known to depend on the Value which its Superfluities of every kind bear in other Parts of the World, in Proportion to the foreign Commodities which they are obliged to import. This ſtrikes the Ballance in Trade, and eaſily determines the Queſtion, whether a Nation ſhould carry on a foreign Commerce at all, and to what Degree; or ought rather to confine their whole Conſumption to the Produce of their own Country.

That Trade brings Riches is a Maxim univerſally received, and we obſerve that the Nations

tions who enjoy the moſt extenſive Commerce are without Competition the moſt wealthy: But Experience will alſo convince us, that many Nations are undone by extending their Trade, when their Exports are not of Value to purchaſe what they may fancy they have Occaſion for from abroad.

Thus a People may be undone by Trade; and it is demonſtrable, that if we import to the Value of ten thouſand Pounds a Year of foreign Commodities, and yet cannot make up more than one thouſand in our Produce and Manufactures at home, the Ballance in Trade is againſt us nine thouſand Pounds a Year, which muſt in a few Years accompliſh our Ruin.

Thus the *Iriſh* and the *North-American* Trade to *England*, is a deſtructive one to *Ireland* and *North-America*; the former being obliged to remit at leaſt one Third, and the other two Thirds in Money to pay their Ballance: And thus the *Engliſh* themſelves ſuffer in their Commerce with *France*, which produces many Things they make neceſſary to their very Being, and yet are able to return very little which that Nation has Occaſion for; being our Rivals in almoſt every Manufacture we cultivate, and wanting little from us, except our Wool, which yet they obtain in an illicit Way in ſufficient Quantities to enable them to underſell us in every Market they reſort to.

In

In *Minorca* this Misfortune is more ſenſibly felt. There are few Exports of any Account, and they are obliged to their Neighbours for near *one Third* of their Corn, *all* their Oil, and *Aguardiente*, and ſuch a Variety of Articles of leſs Conſideration, that nothing could preſerve them from a total Bankruptcy, but the *Engliſh* Money circulated by the Troops, which is exchanged for the daily Supplies of Proviſions, increaſed by the Multiplication of Vineyards, the breeding of Fowls, and the Production of Vegetables, in a Proportion of at leaſt five to one ſince the Iſland has been in our Poſſeſſion.

It will not require many Words to enumerate their Exports: They make a Sort of *Cheeſe*, little liked by the *Engliſh*, which ſells in *Italy* at a very great Price; this perhaps to the Amount of eight hundred Pounds *per Annum*. The *Wool* they ſend abroad may produce nine hundred Pounds more. Some *Wine* is exported, and if we add to its Value that of the home Conſumption, which has every Merit of an Export, being nine Parts in ten taken off by the Troops for ready Money, it may well be eſtimated at ſixteen thouſand Pounds a Year. In *Honey*, *Wax*, and *Salt*, their yearly Exports may be about four hundred Pounds, and this comes pretty near the Sum of their Exports, which I eſtimate together at Eighteen thouſand one hundred Pounds ſterling *per Annum*.

A vaſt

A vaſt Ballance lies againſt them, if we conſider the Variety and Importance of the Articles they fetch from other Countries, for which they muſt pay ready Caſh. Here it may be neceſſary to withdraw ſome Things from the Heap, ſuch as their Cattle, Sheep, and Fowls, on which they get a Profit; for the Country does not produce them in ſufficient Abundance to ſupply us, eſpecially when we have a Fleet of Men of War ſtationed with us.

What remains they purchaſe from abroad, and I aſſure you I do not jeſt when I tell you I believe I have omitted at leaſt as many Particulars as I have been able to recollect on the Occaſion.

Their Imports then are, Corn, Cattle, Sheep, Fowls, Tobacco, *Aguardiente*, Oil, Rice, Sugar, Spices, Hard-ware, and Tools, of all kinds; Gold and Silver Lace, Chocolate, or *Cacao* to make it, Tobacco, Timber, Plank, Boards, Mill-Stones, Tobacco-pipes, Playing-cards, Turnery-ware, Seeds, Soap, Saddles, all manner of Cabinet-makers Work, Iron Spikes, Nails, fine Earthen-ware, Glaſs, Lamps, Braſiery, Paper, and other Stationary-wares, Copperas, Galls, Dye-ſtuffs, Painters Bruſhes and Colours, Muſical Inſtruments, Muſick, and Strings; Watches, Wine, Fruit, all manner of fine and printed Linens, Muſlins, Cambricks, and Laces; Bottles, Corks, Starch, Indigo, Fans, Trinkets, Toys, Ribbands, Tape, Needles, Pins, Silk, Mohair,

Lanthorns, Cordage, Tar, Pitch, Roſin, Drugs, Gloves, Fire-Arms, Gun-powder, Shot and Lead; Hats, Caps, Velvet, Cotton, Stuffs, Woollen-Cloths, Stockings, Copes, Medals, Veſtments, Luſtres, Pictures, Images, *Agnus Dei*'s, Books, Pardons, Bulls, Relicks, and Indulgences.

It muſt be confeſſed, that if the *Engliſh* have brought Money into the Country, they have for the Time much infected the Inhabitants, by ſetting them an Example of ſpending it.

Many of them have learned to multiply their Wants, and fall by Degrees into a Way of Luxury and Extravagance, perfectly new to them.

The *Dons* are above Trade, and the reſt of the Natives are unable to exerciſe it to any Purpoſe. Yet if this infatuated People would ſet themſelves ſeriouſly to make the moſt of their native Produce, a few Years Induſtry would enable them to traffick with their Neighbours to Advantage, and even to provide Exports of conſiderable Value for an *Engliſh* Market. To Inſtance in a few,

The Cotton-Shrub has been tried here, and ſucceeds to Admiration: I have tried it, and found it to do ſo; yet the *Minorquins* will not be prevailed upon to propagate it. The more induſtrious Inhabitants of the Iſland of *Malta* increaſe and cultivate it with ſuch Diligence, that they export fifteen thouſand *Quintals* of Cotton-Wool every Year, beſides what

what is conſumed in their Home-Manufactures. They have *Spart* growing in many Places, in ſufficient Plenty to make all their own Cordage, and to ſpare. The *Tunny-Fiſh* abounds on their Coaſt, and they might eaſily fall into the Method of curing it: By this the *French* of *Languedoc* and *Provence*, their Neighbours, make a vaſt Advantage.

They have Abundance of *Olive-Trees*, yet they make no Oil of the Fruit, and are utterly ignorant of the right Method of pickling it.

Some *Capers* they pickle, and might, from the Frequency of the Plant, improve this into a very valuable Export.

Hemp and *Flax* do extremely well, and might be increaſed and manufactured for Exportation. Their *Canes* or *Reeds* are of Uſe in the Clothiers Trade, but they export none; and they have great Plenty of excellent *Slate*, but do not work it.

It might poſſibly anſwer to ſend their *Cantoon-Stone* to *England* as Ballaſt; but certainly their *Marble* would be a valuable Commodity with us, of which no Country can boaſt a greater Quantity in Proportion, nor of greater Beauty or Variety, than this poor Iſland.

Squills they have in Abundance, *Maſtick*, *Aloes*, and ſome other Drugs, which they neglect.

Their Bees thrive well, and ſhould be carefully managed, and increaſed as much as poſſible; their Wax is inferior to none, and their Honey cannot fail of being extremely delicate and fine, in a Country abounding with ſuch a Variety of aromatick Plants, and is therefore in high Eſteem every where.

They raiſe a little Tobacco, but ſeldom half the Quantity they conſume; and they make a kind of Snuff in ſmall Quantities, which is in no reſpect inferior to that of *Lisbon*.

Their Neighbours of *Majorca* make good Advantage of their Plantations of Saffron, which theſe People uſe in their Cookery, and yet will not take the Pains to raiſe it.

Their Palm-Trees, for want of a proper Cultivation, produce no Dates, and they ſend none of their Fruit abroad, though they have it in their Power to ſupply us with as good Figs, Prunes, Almonds, Raiſins, Pomegranates, Oranges, Lemons, and ſeveral other Kinds, as any Country in *Europe*.

But I will cloſe theſe Hints of what an induſtrious People might do to enrich themſelves, and this indolent Generation of Men careleſsly overlook, with the Mention of *Salt*, a Ready-Money Commodity every where, and of which they might eaſily make a thouſand times the Quantity they now do. Their Method requires ſo little Trouble, that I will lay it before you.

There

There are a great many Places on the Coaſt of the Iſland, where the Rock is but little higher than the Surface of the Sea, and is flat for a great Way together. In Gales of Wind the Sea is beat all over theſe Levels, and the Salts have by Degrees corroded the ſofter Parts of the Stone, and reduced its Face to an infinite Number of ſmall Cavities, divided from each other by the more ſolid Veins, which have reſiſted their Impreſſion.

Theſe Cavities they fill with Water from the Sea, by means of Scoops, and one Day's Sun ſuffices to evaporate the Water, and leaves the concreted Salt dry in the Cells. The Women and Children gather it in the Evening, and carry it home, and the Cells in the Rock are filled as before.

Having inſtanced to you ſome of the natural Produce of this Iſland, ſlighted by the Inhabitants, which yet are capable of being improved into very valuable Articles of Commerce; I will attempt an Eſtimate of the Charge they are at in their Importations.

I have in my Poſſeſſion an authentick Paper, which contains an exact Account of their Harveſts for thirty ſeven Years. By this it appears, that there are annually raiſed here Fifty three thouſand five hundred and one *Quarteras* of Wheat, and Twenty two thouſand ſix hundred eighty three of Barley, one Year with another; and I think it is equal in Goodneſs to any they import from *Sicily*, or

the other Markets they reſort to, for what they want above their own Produce.

The Grains are large and hard, and the Flour exceeding white. I weighed eight Grains of the *Minorca* Wheat, and found them to be equal to five Grains *Troy*-Weight. This I did in the Year 1740, as I find in a Memorandum which I made at the ſame Time.

Dr. *Plott* ſays *, the *Staffordſhire* Farmers have a Rule, that the colder any Country is, the thicker will the Huſk of any Sort of Grain be, as if, ſays he, Nature deſigned to fence it againſt the Severity of the Clime.

It follows from hence, that the hotter the Country is, the thinner will the Huſk be; and it is obſerved, that the Wheat of the Growth of this Iſland yields more Flour, and leſs Bran, than either the *Engliſh*, or the *French* Wheat does: I mean the *French* Wheat of the more northerly Provinces; for about *Marſeilles*, and indeed throughout all *Languedoc* and *Provence*, the Climate differs little from that of the *Balearick* Iſlands, in whoſe Neighbourhood they lie.

The Eaſtern Method, of treading out the Corn, is ſtill in Uſe among the *Minorquins*. *Homer* has deſcribed it, exactly, in the 20th *Iliad*:

As

* Hiſt. of *Staffordſhire*, C. vi. Sect. 10.

As with autumnal Harveſts cover'd o'er,
And thick beſtrown, lies Ceres' *ſacred Floor,*
When round and round, with never-weary'd Pain,
The trampling Steers beat out th' unnumber'd Grain.

Mr. POPE.

Moſt of the Farmers about the Iſland have Hand-Mills in their Houſes, conſiſting of two round Stones, of about two Feet Diameter; theſe they place on the Floor, and the good Woman, ſitting down, feeds the Mill with one Hand, and with the other turns the upper Stone merrily about: all the while chearing her Labour with a Song.

Theſe Mills are well known in *Devonſhire*, and ſeveral other Parts of *England*, under the Name of *Querns*.

But the Great Towns are provided with Windmills, each having ſix Vanes, or Wings, which are ſecured againſt the ſudden Flurries and Squalls, ſo frequent here, by a Number of Ropes and Lines diſpoſed artfully enough for that Purpoſe.

Wheat is their only Bread-Corn, all their Barley being given to their Beaſts. Of the laſt they ſeldom import any, but they have Occaſion for thirty-five thouſand *Quarters* of Wheat every Year, which at nine Shillings each, amount to Fifteen thouſand ſeven hundred and fifty Pounds.

They import Oil yearly to the Value of ten thouſand Pounds.

I have by me an exact Account of the *Stanc* of *Aguardiente* for fourteen Years, and find they import annually of this Spirit a Quantity that coſts them Nine thouſand two hundred and fifty Pounds, allowing only ten *per Cent.* for the Profit of the Farmers; and this, at Six-pence a Quart, makes their yearly Conſumption of this Spirit to be upwards of 1540 Hogſheads.

They import Tobacco to the Amount of One thouſand two hundred Pounds a Year.

We may compute that their Imports in Linen and Woollen Goods of all kinds do not come to leſs than fifteen thouſand Pounds. It is not poſſible to make a nice calculation of the Value of all the Reſidue of their Imports, ſo I ſhall ſet them at a round Sum, which I dare ſay they do not fall ſhort of, twenty thouſand Pounds.

So that here we have an annual Expence of Seventy one thouſand two hundred Pounds, from which we deduct Eighteen thouſand one hundred Pounds, the Amount of their Exports, the Remainder Fifty-three thouſand one hundred Pounds *Sterling* is a clear Ballance of Trade againſt them.

To enable theſe People, in ſome Meaſure to ſupport the Charge of this enormous Ballance, we are to reckon the large Sum of Money yearly brought into the Iſland, and ſpent among them by the Troops; a Sum,

as

as I have computed it, that falls but little ſhort of their whole Ballance, the greateſt Part of which goes to Market for the common Neceſſaries of Life.

Every Vintage produces eighteen thouſand Hogſheads of Wine; and if we allow for the *Clergy* two thouſand Hogſheads, and for all the reſt of the Natives one thouſand, the remaining fifteen thouſand Hogſheads are ſold to the *Engliſh* for Twenty-ſeven thouſand eight hundred and twenty-five Pounds, in ready Money, the Price of a Hogſhead taken at a Medium at thirty-five Shillings.

This is a very conſiderable Article in their Favour, and they are ſo ſenſible of the Advantage they draw from their Vineyards, that they are continually enlarging them and increaſing their Number, notwithſtanding they are taxed to near half their Value.

They are indeed tied down to a ſet Price for their Red Wine, and the *Aforacion* or Rate, is ſettled the Beginning of the Year; but for the little White Wine they make, they are at Liberty to drive their Bargain as advantageouſly as they can.

It is certain this People can never be rich, unleſs they become induſtrious; the Sea is open to them as well as to their Neighbours on every Side, who thrive by a foreign Commerce, and yet not one of them can victual or navigate their Veſſels near ſo cheap as theſe ſlothful *Minorquins*, who lie in the Centre of

ſo many trading Ports, that it is amazing how they can have ſo long overlooked their true Intereſt, and ſuffered themſelves to be ſupplied with ſo many of the Neceſſaries of Life in foreign Bottoms.

The *Minorquins* are naturally liſtleſs, and if they can contrive the Means to keep their Families from the ſharp Gripe of Poverty, they are but little ſollicitous to enquire into the Arts and Manufactures by which ſudden Fortunes are acquired on every Side of them. Tell them the *Malteſe* are enriched by the Quantities of Cummin and Anniſe-ſeed they export; remind them that the Plant which produces the Canary-ſeed grows ſpontaneouſly all over the iſland, or that a Gum is produced from the Maſtick-Tree, of very great Value abroad (and though this Tree is an Incumbrance which they eagerly root out of their Grounds) they treat you as a Viſionary, and with a Shrug of Contempt ſeem to thank Heaven that they have no Turn to Whims and Projects, but are contented to jog on in the plain Track which their Fathers trod before them. I am well aſſured there are yearly exported by the *Malteſe*, twelve-hundred *Quintals* of Anniſe-ſeed, and three thouſand five hundred Quintals of Cummin-Seed.

But I muſt not anticipate the Subject of a future Letter, wherein I ſhall endeavour to make

make you better acquainted with the Natives of *Minorca*. I am for the preſent,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER XI.

SIR, MINORCA, 17 *October*, 1741.

I HAVE put up my little Collection of FOSSILS, and ſent them by a Friend who has promiſed to deliver them to you. They are all Natives of *Minorca*, where, eſpecially, ſuch Numbers of what are commonly called *Petrified Sea-Shells*, and the *Parts of Fiſhes*, are found every where embodied in the Rocks, that the Preſent would have been much more worthy of your Acceptance, if the violent Heats of the Summer Months did not prevent my Excurſions, and the Ruggedneſs under Foot limit and ſhorten them, when the Weather allows me to go abroad. Beſides, it is no very eaſy Taſk to diſengage theſe Subſtances from the Stone in which they are fixed, without breaking them, and I was unwilling to ſend you any but ſuch as were entire.

The *Soil*, or *vegetable Earth*, of this Iſland is of ſeveral Kinds; that of the Hills and upper Grounds is of a Colour nearly approaching to black. It is light, fine and extreamly fertile,

fertile, and though it is very thinly ſpread over the face of the Rock, it yet produces tolerable Crops with very little Cultivation. It has a ſmall Intermixture of Sand, which diſpoſes it to ſeparate freely before the Plough; a Quality very advantageous to the *Minorquins*, as it ſaves them a World of Labour, as well as Expence.

The *Soil* of the *Plains* is far leſs fertile than that of the riſing Grounds: It is cold and clayey, and equally unfit for Agriculture and Paſture; and produces only a ſour Herbage, that is exceſſively diſtaſteful to Cattle, great Plenty of Spart (a Kind of Ruſhes) in many Places, Ruſhes, and a Variety of Weeds. The Vallies indeed have been enriched by the Earth that has been waſhed on them from the adjoining Hills, to a great Depth: But the Hills have been impoveriſhed by the ſame Means, and in the ſame Proportion. However, we frequently ſee Stone-Walls, that have probably ſtood many Ages, run acroſs the Sides of the Hills to detain the Soil; and ſuch Hills yield good Crops to the very Summit, which muſt otherwiſe have had their rocky Entrails laid bare, as is viſible, wherever this Caution has been neglected.

They uſe only one Sort of *Clay*, that I know of, which is of a greyiſh Colour, and burns to a pale Brown. Of this their Tiles, already deſcribed, are made, and a coarſe Earthen Ware for common Uſe, the finer Sorts being imported from *Spain* and *France*.

Of

Of this Clay their Water-Jars are made, and a few ordinary Diſhes and Drinking-Veſſels. The Potters uſe a Wheel, and mould their Ware with their Hands and ſmall wooden Tools: They burn it in Kilns, but do not glaze any of it. I have frequently ſeen blue and yellow Clay in many Places about the Country, but they are put to no manner of Uſe.

Marle might poſſibly be diſcovered here, but theſe People make no Account of Manure, contenting themſelves with giving a Year or two's Reſt to the Grounds they have worn out of Heart by too conſtant a Tillage.

Of that kind of *Gypſum* which they call *Guyſh* I have already taken Notice, in my Letter of 19 *July*, 1740, and of which I ſend you five ſeveral Specimens. It is a Sort of *Plaiſter of Paris*, and abounds in many Parts of the Iſland. Not much unlike this is the *Perelle*, with which they fine their Wines, but of a whiter Complexion, and much more friable and ſparkling.

It has never been my Fortune to meet any of the columnar *Cryſtals* here, though I have diligently ſearched the perpendicular Fiſſures of vaſt Maſſes of Slate-Rock, and thoſe of hard Stone in the Mountains, where they are often found in other Countries. But of that kind of *Spar* which incruſts Plants and Vegetables, I have had an Opportunity of obſerving a great Number at a Place called *Bocca del Rio*, in the *Termino* of *Alaior*. Here is a large

large Pool of ſtagnate Water, extending near a Mile in Length, and reaching within an hundred Yards of the Sea, from which it is ſeparated by a flat Sand. It is probable from the Name of *the River's Mouth*, that this Water had once a Vent here into the Sea. On a little ſandy Eminence near the Shore, moſt of the Plants and Twigs are incruſted, to the Thickneſs of a Quarter of an Inch, with this Subſtance, which is of a crumbly, coarſe, ſandy Texture, and grey Colour, on the Surface, but whiter within, and of a ſtony Hardneſs. Of theſe I ſend you ſeveral Specimens, from three to ſeven Inches in Length, which laſt they ſeldom exceed. Theſe Bodies are conſtantly formed on the Stems of the Shrubs, and never on the Branches, that I could diſcover. Many I ſaw lying on the Ground, hollow within, the Plants on which they grew, having been blown down by the Winds, or decayed by Time, have left the Cavities open which they filled while they ſtood erect in the Earth. This Matter eſſentially differs from the *Oſteocolla* of the Shops, in that it contains no ſurrounding Cruſts, but is compoſed of one uniform Body, hard next the Twig, and gradually more friable and crumbly from thence outward to the Surface, where it readily crackles and breaks away between the Fingers on the ſlighteſt Preſſure. Neither has it any Lines or Marks of a *ſpiral* Figure, as that Body is obſerved to have for the moſt Part,

Part, eſpecially on the Inſide, as if it had once been a flat Subſtance, and was afterwards rolled up into a *Cylindrick* Form; nor is it found compreſſed, like the *Oſteocolla*, but ever exhibits the diſtinct Lineaments of the Plant about which it was originally concreted.

I have ſaid a good deal in my Letter of the 28th of *March*, 1741, of the *Stalactitæ* in *Coya-Perella*, to which I have nothing to add, but that I have ſent you near twenty Varieties of them. Whether there are any different Species among them you will eaſily ſatisfy yourſelf, as ſoon as they come to Hand. I have likewiſe treated in another Place of the *Minorca* Freeſtone, and ſhall only obſerve here that the Maſons in burrowing into the Rocks are frequently interrupted by Veins of a flinty Hardneſs, which they are obliged to blow with Gunpowder. The *Strata* of this hard Stone are ſeldom above a Foot thick, and then the Freeſtone appears again as before; only it is obſerved to be ſomewhat harder as they work downwards, and much freer from Sea-Shells and other extraneous Bodies, than the *Strata* that are nearer to the Surface, which abound with great Variety of thoſe Subſtances. As the porous Texture of the Freeſtone is eaſily pervaded by Water, the Maſons let it lie ſome time to ſeaſon, before they uſe it, and frequently white-waſh the Walls on the Outſide, as ſoon as they are built.

Lime-

Lime-Stone is plenty enough, and in ſome Places the Fence-Walls conſiſt of no other Materials, particularly at the Weſtern End of the Iſland. It is of a light grey Colour, very hard, and ſhining where it is freſh broken. It makes excellent Lime, and contains a great Number of *Echinitæ*, and other Remains of the Deluge, eſpecially in the upper *Strata*. Tho' there are conſiderable *Strata* of this Stone in particular Spots, it more frequently occurs in detached Nodules, and Fragments, plentifully diſperſed in the Corn-Fields; and when they are not too large, and do not lie too thick on the Ground, ſo as to hinder the ſpringing of the Corn, they are no Bar to its Vegetation, but rather favour it by their kindly Warmth, and the Shade they give to the young Shoots, at their firſt coming up.

Minorca affords great Quantities of *Slate*, and there is a good Kind on *Cape-Mola* Neck, lying very convenient for Water-Carriage; but the general Uſe of Tiles has excluded this valuable Covering from the Buildings of the *Minorquins*. It is very ſmooth and gloſſy, of a dark blue Colour, and contains many white Veins throughout. It has a great Number of perpendicular Fiſſures, that divide it into Maſſes of ſuch a Size as to be eaſily managed by the Workman. It ſplits and works as well as any *Engliſh* Slate does.

I ſhall only ſay of *Marbles*, that this Iſland in my Opinion affords them of as great Beauty

Beauty and Variety as any Country in the World; and if our Workmen were once acquainted with them, I make not the leaſt Doubt but they would be quickly brought into general Uſe in *England*; both as Labour is extremely cheap here, and they are eaſily come at, without digging to diſcover them, lying expoſed on the Surface ſometimes for half a Mile together, and after a ſmart Shower of Rain, diſplaying all the Luxuriance of their Variegation to the greateſt Advantage. The Specimens I ſend you are ill poliſhed, theſe People being utterly unpractiſed in ſuch Matters; but ſome of them are ſo elegant in native Beauty, that I think you muſt be glad to have them even in this rough Condition, which you can eaſily improve, where you are, at a moderate Charge.

I have picked up ſome ſmall Fragments of *Alabaſter*, in my Walks, one of which I ſend you; but I have not hitherto been ſo fortunate to diſcover it in a *Stratum*.

Here is an excellent *Stone* for the Uſes to which it is applied in the Fortifications of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle, and it is found in Plenty at the very Foot of the *Glacis*. It bears a great Reſemblance to the *Devonſhire Moor-Stone*, both in Texture and Hardneſs, and being cloven with Wedges, and faſhioned by the Maſon, makes *Steps* and *Platforms* that ſet the Iron Teeth of Time at Defiance. It were to ſpeak doubtfully to tell you it reſembles the *Moor-Stone* in Colour (that of our

Minorca

Minorca Stone being ferruginous) for I have ſeen *Moor-Stone* in the Hands of a Gentleman in *London* of near thirty Varieties, as I think, with regard to Colour only; and as he had put himſelf to the Expence of getting them exquiſitely poliſhed, many of them in Beauty and Elegance ſurpaſſed the fineſt *German Agates* I ever ſaw.

I cannot omit mentioning here the huge Maſſes of *Granate* that lie diſperſed on the Surface of the Earth in many Parts of the Iſland. I ſend you a few Samples of them, which will convince you how highly worthy this Country is of being carefully ſearched by a ſkilful Perſon in theſe Matters, as it poſſeſſes an immenſe Treaſure in Marble, at preſent wholly loſt to the World.

Of thoſe Bodies the Naturaliſts call *Septariæ*, I have met with ſeveral in my Rambles, but I confeſs I neglected to make any Collection of them, looking on them and ſome others in no other Light than as the Lumber of a great *Cabinet*, where every *Foſſil* muſt have a Place, without Regard to Beauty or Value, from the *Diamond* to the unformed Lump of *Clay*.

But I was not quite ſo careleſs of the Bodies marked No 68, though I am at a Loſs to name them, unleſs they are a Species of the *Pudding-Stone* of our Lapidaries. They ſeem to be a Congeries of brown Pebbles of different Sizes, from that of a ſmall Pea to the Bigneſs of a Hazle-Nut, united firmly by a cementitious

cementitious Matter of the ſame Subſtance, both equally hard, and of the ſame Colour externally; but the Pebbles on being cut, diſcover ſeveral Cruſts of different Hues ſurrounding a ſmall *Nucleus* at the Center, which in ſome of them is black, but more commonly white: But the *Nucleus* is not diſcernible in all. A ſmart Blow with a Hammer ſeldom fails to diſlodge ſome of the Pebbles from the Maſs, and then we obſerve their Sides to be flatted, and even impreſſed with deep Cavities, at the Places where they came into Contact with others of different Degrees of Hardneſs at the Time of their Concretion. The general Complexion of the Inſide of the Pebbles, from which they ſeldom vary conſiderably, is grey; next to the brown outſide Cruſt, or Coat, is often a white one, then a dark grey, and then a lighter grey; next comes a dark grey again; which immediately ſurrounds the *Nucleus*, when it is white; for if it is black, it is ſurrounded by a Cruſt of a pale grey. This is the general Structure of this Body, which though it does not want Hardneſs, does not ſeem to be very capable, or indeed very deſerving, of a high Poliſh; however, it helps to furniſh out a pleaſing Variety in a Collection, and more eſpecially its Pebbles, when detached from the Cement, which not a little reſemble ſome of the *Regular Bodies* of the *Geometricians*.

Flint

Flint and *Chalk* are not Natives of *Minorca*, ſo far as I have been able to find upon Search or *Enquiry*. *Flints* for their Guns are imported, and one uſe of Chalk is better ſupplied by the Abundance of excellent Lime-Stone; the Taylors have from *Italy* the *Neapolitan Marking-Stone*, which anſwers their Purpoſe quite as well as *Chalk*.

Vaſt Quantities of *Pebbles* lie in the Neighbourhood of *Colomba*-Iſland; but I have never had the Curioſity to break any of them, to examine the Colour of the Cruſts of which they are compoſed. Some are ſo exactly round, that the *Artillery* People collect them in great Numbers, and carry them to *St. Philip*'s Caſtle, to be uſed as Shot on Occaſion.

There are many *Sandy Bays* about the Coaſt, where the *Sand* is for the moſt Part of a whitiſh Colour, tolerably fine to the Touch, not crackling much between the Fingers, and copiouſly mixed with the Fragments of Sea-Shells. But the *Sand* employed in the Works of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle is taken out of a Cliff next *St. Stephen*'s Cove; the Cliff is hollowed, and Piers left ſtanding at proper Diſtances to ſupport the Weight above, and the whole faſhioned into a Reſemblance of Vaults, as if intended for the Reception of Stores. This *Sand* is of a dark grey Colour, very pure, and free from heterogeneous Matter of every kind, and crackling between the Fingers; being what our Workmen

Workmen call a *hungry Sand*, and requiring a good deal of Lime to be mingled with it for the Compoſition of ſtrong Mortar.

Our Shores likewiſe furniſh many very beautiful *Gritts*, which have been diſunited from the Rocks by the beating of the Waves in hard Gales of Wind.

I have not had the Luck to meet with any *Pyritæ* here, though they are far from being rare in many Parts of the World. Indeed many are the promiſing Spots in the Iſland, which I have never attempted to ſearch; and ſuch is the Ruggedneſs of the Country in general, that many of its *Foſſils* will, in all Probability, remain undiſcovered to the End of Time.

Iron-Ore is ſo plentifully diſperſed over the whole Face of the Earth, that it is not ſurprizing we find it in *Minorca*. Its ferruginous Colour and great Weight diſtinguiſh it, in many flat Maſſes, of from four to ten Inches Diameter, in moſt Parts of the Iſland. But it is not converted to any Uſe here; whether on account of its Unfitneſs to make Iron alone (if it has ever been tried, which I much queſtion) the Scarcity of Fuel, or the Want of Skill in the Natives, I will not take upon me to determine.

I have already taken Notice that a poor *Copper-Ore* is found in *Colomba*-Iſland: Near Mount-*Agatha* other Specimens have been picked up; but none of them promiſe any great Matter.

But

But of *Lead-Ore* here is a Mine at *St. Puig*, which has been worked to Advantage within theſe 40 Years, and the *Ore* ſent into *France* and *Spain*, for the Uſe of the Potteries of thoſe Countries. The Proprietor diſcontinued his Work on ſome ſmall Diſcouragement; and it muſt be owned that theſe People are of all Mankind the moſt eaſily put out of Conceit with an Undertaking that does not bring them in Mountains of preſent Gain, or that admits of the ſlighteſt Probability of diſappointing their moſt ſanguine Expectations: Nor will their Purſe admit of many Diſappointments; and thus their Poverty co-operating with their natural Deſpondence and Love of Eaſe, is the principal Cauſe of their Backwardneſs to engage in Projects, though never ſo promiſing, for the Improvement of their private Fortune, and the Advantage of their Country. This *Lead-Ore* went under the Name of *Vernis* among the Natives, as it was wholly uſed by the Potters in varniſhing and glazing their Earthen Veſſels.

Of *vegetable Subſtances* buried in the Earth, I have not met with any here; but of *Sea-Shells*, and the *Parts of Fiſhes*, vaſt Numbers appear almoſt every where, not only in the Surface of the Rock, but to conſiderable Depths in digging. Theſe are called by the Naturaliſts *extraneous Foſſils*, as they are Natives of another Element, and lodged in the different Strata of the Earth at the Time of

of the *Univerſal Deluge*, as is the general Opinion at preſent; though many learned Perſons have thought otherwiſe, and prepoſterouſly contended that they were only *the Sports of Nature*, and *Lapides ſui generis*, a Notion which the bare Inſpection of the Bodies themſelves is ſufficient to refute. Theſe are of two Kinds, I. Such as have preſerved the original Subſtance of the Bone or Shell, either intire or in Part; and, II. Such as were formed in the Shell, as in a Mould, and are every where impreſſed with the Lineaments of the Inſide of the Shell, which has been long periſhed.

The firſt of theſe are found with their Cavities conſtantly filled with the Matter of the Stone in which they are bedded, at leaſt ſo far as I have ſeen here, whether it be the common Freeſtone (to which our Searchers are chiefly confined, as it is oftenеſt broke into, and they are more eaſily extracted from thence) or the harder Lime-Stone, or Marble. The ſecond Sort lie looſe in the Strata, the decaying of the *Shell* having made Room for them, and are for the moſt Part of the ſame Kind of Stone with that in which they are encloſed; though they are ſometimes of a different Matter; as I have found them of Lime-Stone, included in a *Stratum* of Freeſtone, which however is not ſo common.

The *Minorquins* call the *Gloſſopetræ* Serpents Tongues, as Mr. *Ray* informs us the *Malteſe* alſo do; but they have been inconteſtably proved

proved to be no other than the *Teeth* of the *Shark*, to which they bear an exact Reſemblance. They are frequently found by the Quarriers in coming at the Cantoons, and I have ſeen them ſticking out of the Rock in the Cliffs adjacent to *Mahon*-Harbour. The largeſt of thoſe I ſend you is of a whitiſh brown Colour, two Inches and a Quarter long, and almoſt two Inches broad at the greater End, where there is no Root. It is ſlightly ſerrated at the Edges, and has its Point turned a little downwards. The original Matter of the Tooth remains pretty entire, and the Cavity is filled with Freeſtone. It is rounded on the upper Side, and flat on the other, with a *Sinus* extended from the Middle to the lower End.

The next Specimen differs from the other in little more than its Colour, which is perfectly white, and of an exquiſite Poliſh; and in it having a Root of Freeſtone, tinged of a greeniſh Hue by Particles of Copper, that has been diſſolved by Acids ſomewhere in its Neighbourhood. The former Specimen is not wholly free from this Stain, though the two *Foſſils* were found at ſome Miles Diſtance from each other.

Another *Shark's Tooth* I alſo ſend you, much ſmaller than either of the former, and ſcarce an Inch long, but without a Root. This, as well as the others, has preſerved the original Texture of the *Tooth*, and like them is filled with Freeſtone, and appears to be tranſparent,

tranſparent, being held before a Candle. The Smallneſs of this elegant *Foſſil* is ſo far from being an Objection to its having been a *Shark's Tooth*, that we ſeldom find the *Teeth* of that Fiſh recent ſo large as this is: And to enable you to judge for yourſelf on this Head, I ſend you ſome I took from the Jaws of one that meaſured full 17 Feet in Length: What Monſters of the Deep then muſt they have been, that had *Teeth* above twice the Size of my firſt deſcribed *Gloſſopetra*, as our daily Diſcoveries here and in other Countries evince ſome of them to have had?

I ſend you a Fiſh's Tooth, but dare not affirm it ever belonged to a *Shark*. It is an Inch long, and ſo writhed, as almoſt to reſemble the Letter *S*. It is of a reddiſh yellow Colour, very bright and ſhining, and retains the original Subſtance of the *Tooth* on the Outſide, having its Cavity filled, like the others, with the Freeſtone of the *Stratum* in which it was found, but no Root.

The Bodies that go under the Name of *Bufonitæ*, or *Toad-Stones*, cannot be in greater Plenty even in *Malta* (the moſt noted Magazine for theſe *Foſſils*, as well as the *Gloſſopetræ*) than they are in *Minorca*. The Natives rank them among the Gems, and wear them in Rings and Buttons, without poliſhing; and indeed they do not need it, being ever of a bright gloſſy Surface with us. Their Colour is a browniſh Yellow, deeper in ſome

Specimens than in others. Some of them have a ſlender Circle at the Baſe, of a true Gambouge Colour, and others a ſecond Circle above that, of a dark brown, and ſome of them are obſerved to be all over ſlightly powdered with white.

I have hitherto obſerved but four Varieties of the *Bufonitæ*, which I will not venture to call Species: You are the beſt Judge. I. Such as approach the hemiſpherical Figure, and are ſlightly hollowed within: Theſe, ſo far as I have obſerved, are never circled at the Baſe, but are of one uniform Colour, and that the brighteſt and the paleſt of all the *Bufonitæ*. II. Such as agree in their exterior Form with thoſe laſt mentioned, but are very much hollowed at the Baſe, ſo as to have but little Subſtance left, and ſharp Edges. III. Such as riſe higher than either of the two former, are deeply hollowed, and have thick Edges: Theſe are never without Circles of a different Colour, and are the deepeſt-coloured of any we find in the Iſland. And IV. Such as riſe into the Figure of a Cone, and are deeply hollowed, ſome of them having Circles of different Colours at the Baſe, while others are wholly without them. One of theſe has a white Circle at the Baſe; and this it is which, of all our *Bufonitæ*, is the only one that is ſometimes powdered with white on the Surface.

Some of our *Bufonitæ* are a little flatted on the Sides, by accidental Injuries, which muſt

muſt have happened before they attained their preſent Hardneſs; and others are depreſſed on the Top, as they are frequently obſerved to be in other Countries. I have never known them to be found here except in the common Freeſtone, with which their Cavities are filled.

The Opinion that theſe Bodies were generated in the Head of a *Toad*, on which Account their Name was given them, has been ſufficiently exploded. They are unqueſtionably the Teeth of a Fiſh, and I can take upon me to ſay, that I lately picked up a Fiſh's Jaw on the NorthShore of the Iſland, that had many Teeth in it that bore exact Reſemblance to them, in every Particular, except the Colour, but I cannot affirm it to have been the Jaw of the *Wolf-Fiſh*. Our *Minorca Bufonitæ* (to which only relates what I have ſaid of thoſe bodies) ſeldom exceed half an Inch in Diameter, in the largeſt Specimens, nor do they fall much ſhort of it in the ſmalleſt: Their uſual Standard may be fixed at four Tenths of an Inch.

Of the *Bivalves* we have ſeveral Kinds found foſſile here: The *Oſtracites* is common enough, but I have not been able, after many unſucceſsful Attempts to get any of them out of the Rock, without breaking. We have *Cockles*, and the *Conchæ Anomiæ*, both ſmooth and ſtraited, in ſome Places in the *Termino* of *Ciudadella*; but they are ever diveſted of the *Shell* in which they were ori-

ginally moulded. And here I muſt tell you, that I have never found any one *foſſil Shell* in this Country, properly ſpeaking, whether retaining its natural Texture, or having its Pores filled with an adventitious *Sparry*, or other Matter; what we have being always the *Caſts* formed in the *Shell*, which is now decayed and gone.

We have good Store of *figured Stones* which were formed in *Turbinated Shells*: The *Trochi*, *Cylindri*, *Buccina*, are very frequent in many of our Fence-walls.

Of *Echinitæ*, or Bodies formed in the *Shell* of the *Echinus*, or *Sea-Urchin*, we have an amazing Plenty, eſpecially a little to the Weſtward of *Ciudadella*, where I think there are ſome *Genera* that are undeſcribed by Authors: But it is next to an Impoſſibility to get them out of the Stone in which they are bedded, without breaking them, and I will conclude nothing from Fragments. I ſend you two Varieties of *Echinitæ*, being all the entire Specimens I have been able to procure.

One of them is of the *Echinus Cordatus* Kind, and common enough in the Quarries of Cantoon-Stone, of which Subſtance it is wholly compoſed. It happened to make its Appearance at an Angle, and a lucky Blow freed it from its Confinement without Injury.

The other is an *Echinites*, and, for any Thing I know, may be an undeſcribed Species. It has five Cavities or Furrows, the middle one conſiderably broader and deeper than the reſt,

reſt, and reaching more than half the Length of the Body; one leſſer one at each Side of this, but not exactly parallel to it, and two that are ſtill ſmaller, near the Head of the principal Furrow, where they all meet: It is of the common Freeſtone.

I ſhall conclude this Account of my little Collection of *Minorca Foſſils* with obſerving, that generally ſuch *Shells* as are moſt common on our Shores, the *Scalop*, *Muſſle*, *Tellina*, &c. are very rarely found *foſſile*: Nay, tho' the *Echinus Ovarius*, which in its recent State is every where ſpread as thick as it can lie on the Rocks in the Water, yet I have never diſcovered it in the Quarries; though the other Species, the *Cordati*, *Diſcoides*, &c. or rather *Caſts* of Stone formed in the Shells of them are Plenty enough, and yet I have never obſerved the Fiſhes themſelves to be Natives here, nor have ever found their Shells in the Sandy-Bays, amongſt the Numbers of others that are continually waſhed up by the Sea.

I will now take a little Breath, and renew your Trouble the firſt Opportunity.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER XII.

SIR, MINORCA, 2 *December*, 1741.

THESE People are not very ſollicitous to increaſe the Number of their Horſes, as they are more tender and ſubject to Maladies than the Mules, and more chargeable in keeping. However, it is neceſſary to have a Number of Mares for the He-Aſs, to keep up the Breed of Mules, which are the Beaſts they principally rely on for Burthen, and for the Saddle. The Horſes, like their Maſters, have a certain Statelineſs in their Gait, that promiſes more Proof than is in their Nature; for they are both arrant Jades at the Bottom: They are ſmaller than ours, and are oftner of a brown Bay, than of any other Colour. As here are no Meadows, the Wretchedneſs of their Paſture, which conſiſts chiefly of Weeds, (for I do not remember that what we call Graſs makes any Part of it) ſtands in Need of an additional Proviſion of chopped Straw and Barley, which are however dealt to them with no very liberal Hand.

The Mules are ſtrong and hardy, and are ſo far from being nice or delicate in their Diet, that they make Shift with whatever comes in the Way, and generally keep in Fleſh, if they are not over-worked. Theſe Creatures, like other Monſters in Nature, never breed, though they mix freely, and

that

that ſometimes without Diſtinction of Sex. They are very ſure-footed, but extremely vicious, with a Sagacity that is ſurprizing. I have known them take a Frolick of galloping with their Rider down a ſteep Hill; and their Reſtiveneſs has frequently brought them to the Brink of a dangerous Precipice. But their Cunning is not limited to theſe Tricks: They will edge to the roughest Part of the Road, to have an Excuſe to go ſoftly; or move to the Fence-Wall by Degrees, and entertain themſelves with rubbing your Leg againſt the Stones; then if a Stirrup ſlips off, or the Bridle eſcapes from your Hand, they quickly ſeize the Opportunity, and uſe a thouſand Wiles to diſmount you; ſo that you are obliged to a conſtant Vigilance to be able to keep your Seat. May be you may think this is trifling, but give me Leave to aſſure you, I have been in every Circumſtance of theſe ridiculous Diſtreſſes myſelf, and never was more ſerious in my Life.*

The Aſſes are likewiſe uſed in carrying Burthens, and are much rode by the *Spaniards*, as indeed they are by us, on our ſhorter Excurſions, and Parties of Pleaſure. It is no uncommon Thing here to ſee a luſty Gentleman mounted on one of theſe Animals, almoſt covered with Furniture;

* *Pliny* mentions a Mule that lived eighty Years Our's ſeldom arrive at one fourth of that Age.

and the Frequency of the Sight has ſo far familiarized it to us, that we are no longer ſtruck with the Ridicule which it preſented us with on our Arrival in the Country.

Both the Mule and the Aſs grow to a greater Size here than they generally do in *England*, and are very ſtrong and hardy. The *Minorquins* ſlit up the Noſtrils of their Aſſes, to give them more Air, and to eaſe them in their Reſpiration.

The Hire of a Mule for a Day is fixed at two *Reals*, or One Shilling; that of an Aſs at Nine Pence. From *Mahon* to *Ciudadella*, a Mule Four Shillings, an Aſs Three Shillings. We are allowed three Days to return the Beaſt, which if we exceed, we pay Nine Pence a Day for the Mule, and for the Aſs Six Pence. Other Diſtances are regulated in Proportion to theſe. A Horſe is lett at the ſame Rate as a Mule, and the Rider is obliged to find the Beaſt in Provender until he returns it.

Their Cow-Kind are ſmaller than our's. Their Fleſh is ever very lean, and ſuch as would hardly eſcape being burned for Carrion, if it was expoſed to Sale in an *Engliſh* Market. The Cows give little Milk, and the Butter theſe People make of it is extreamly diſagreeable to three of the Senſes. Nor is it conſiderably excelled by their Cheeſe, though the *Italians* ſet a high Value on it, and prefer it to their own *Parmeſan*.

The

The *Minorquins* do not geld their Cattle, but ſqueeze their Teſticles when they have attained a certain Age; and this ſeems to be a *Mooriſh* Cuſtom, which, among many others, they have retained, the *Mahometans*, (as Dr. *Shaw* obſerves) thinking it great Cruelty to caſtrate any other Creatures beſides thoſe of their own Species.

As the Paſtures of different Proprietors are not always divided from each other by Fences, and a good deal of Confuſion might be occaſioned by their Cattle running together in common, they are marked every Year by the Magiſtrates, in ſuch a Manner, that every Farmer can eaſily diſtinguiſh his own. Theſe Marks are certain Slits or Notches on one or both Ears, which they diverſify into ſuch a Variety, as to ſerve all Land-Owners of a *Termino*.

Every Regiment has its particular Butcher, who once a Week applies to the Magiſtrates for an Order directed to ſome Farmer of the *Termino* to ſupply him with a Beaſt for the Uſe of the Regiment. If the Butcher cannot agree with the Farmer about the Price, the Farmer drives his Beaſt to the Shambles, and ſees it ſlaughtered, and the Quarters weighed, when he receives ten *Dubleros* a long Pound for the Beef, and makes what he can of the Head, the Skin, and the Offal. The Quarter-maſter conſtantly attends at the Butchery, and calls a Roll of the Officers Names, according to which they are ſerved

in their Turns, after the Commanding-Officer has taken what he has Occaſion for.

Our Mutton is no better than our Beef; and I believe many of our Gentlemen regret the Fleſh-Pots of *England* as much as the *Jews* of old did thoſe of *Egypt*, and with at leaſt equal Reaſon. There are ſeven Sheep killed every Week for the Officers of a Regiment, and now and then a Calf or a Lamb; and theſe, with the Bullock, make up the Sum of our Expectations from the Butchery: But we contrive to better our Commons, by taking Care to be conſtantly ſupplied with Fowls, wild and tame, Rabbets and Fiſh, as they ſeverally come in Seaſon.

The Price of Beef is regulated by Authority at Four Pence the long Pound, of Mutton and Veal at Six Pence. It is a good Sheep here that weighs twelve long Pounds. Lamb is never ſold by Weight; the Quarter goes for a Shilling.

Here are great Numbers of Swine, that are turned into the Woods in Autumn, where they are quickly fattened by the vaſt Quantities of Acorns which the Peaſants beat from the Ever-green Oaks for their Food. From hence they are houſed, and when their Fleſh has been duly hardened by a Barley-Diet, they are as good Pork as any in the World. Some of them are immoderately large and fat, and theſe are in the higheſt Eſteem with the Natives, who ſalt them up for the Uſe of their Houſes, and a

ſmall

ſmall Quantity is ſometimes exported. This Fondneſs of the *Minorquins* for fat Pork will appear the more prepoſterous to thoſe that have obſerved their unconquerable Averſion for the fat Beef with which the Troops are victualled from *Ireland*. Their Sucking-Pigs are ſold reaſonably cheap, and are excellent Meat.

Of Goats we have many great Herds in the Iſland, but their Fleſh ſeldom finds a Place at our Tables, except that of the Kid, which is very delicate.

We reckon *Minorca* to have at this Time between ſix and ſeven thouſand great Cattle, ſixty thouſand Sheep, twenty thouſand Goats, and four thouſand Swine.

This Country breeds great Numbers of very good Rabbets, which harbour in the Thickets, and in the Crannies of the Rocks: But, as no Uſe is made of their Fur, the Skins bear no Price among us; *Minorca*, like moſt other hot Countries, affording no Furs of Value. We know that the Beaver of *Hudſon*'s Bay is of a ſuperior Goodneſs to that of *Carolina*, and that ſuch Sheep as are ſent from *New-England* to *Jamaica*, ſoon grow hairy; ſo that I ſuppoſe in general, rich Furs may be looked upon as the Produce of cold Countries, the Author of Nature having provided a warmer Cloathing for ſuch of his Creatures as his Providence thought fit to expoſe to the Rigours of a ſevere Climate.

I am

I am aware of an Objection in Favour of the *Spaniſh* Wool, which is confeſſedly finer than that of the Countries that lie nearer the Pole. But this I could eaſily obviate by reminding you, that my Suppoſition related only to Furs, and did not extend to Wool: But does not Dr. *Shaw*, * who lived many Years in *Barbary*, affirm the Sheep of the *Sahara* to have Fleeces as coarſe and hairy as thoſe of the Goats? For this the Doctor aſſigns a phyſical Cauſe, and thinks it may be occaſioned by *the Heat of the Climate, the Scarcity of Water, and the Coarſeneſs of the Herbs they feed upon.* *Pliny* ſays the ſame Thing of the Wool of *Iſtria* and *Liburnia*, and of that of the Southern Parts of *France*: He adds, that the like hairy Wool is found in *Egypt*; and theſe are all hot Countries.

As to the remarkable fineneſs of the *Spaniſh* Wool, it may be poſſibly owing to the delicate Paſtures in the Neighbourhood of *Segovia*, every way agreeable to the Nature of the *Engliſh* Sheep ſettled there from *Cotſwold*.

The Wool of the *Minorca* Sheep is of a middle Staple, neither very fine, nor ſo coarſe as to be unfit for Uſe. A good deal of it is manufactured in the Iſland, and the Remainder is exported, and fetches a good Price abroad.

* Travels, p. 241.

We

We have no Deer in *Minorca*, and Hares are likewiſe Strangers at preſent. Governor *Kane* indeed procured a few of the latter, and turned them looſe; but two or three pleaſant Gentlemen could not reſiſt the Temptation of hunting and ſhooting them, and ſo the ſmall Stock was quickly brought to nothing.

There are many Hedge-Hogs, which the *Spaniards* make no ſcruple to eat; but I have never heard of the Porcupine here, though it is very common in *Barbary*. The Land-Tortoiſe is far from being a Rarity; and its Eggs are very large for an Animal of that Size. The Number of our Lizards is ſcarcely to be conceived: One ſees them baſking in the Sun in every Cavity of the Fence-Walls throughout the whole Iſland. *Theophraſtus*, (ſays *Pliny*, *lib.* 8. *cap.* 31.) reports, that the Lizard caſts the Skin in the ſame manner as the Snake does, but immediately devours it. This great Philoſopher took the vulgar Error upon Truſt. He did not think it impoſſible that the Lizard might caſt his Skin, and as he had never found the *Exuviæ*, he gave too eaſy Credit to the reſt of the Fable.

Every Moraſs and Pool has its Colony of Frogs, and their Note has been ſometimes miſtaken by Strangers for the Cry of the Wild-Duck.

The common Snake and the Viper are the only Kinds I have had an Opportunity of ſeeing here. The

The *Scorpion* lurks among Heaps of Wood, but does not often come into our Houſes. Theſe venomous Reptiles frequently do Miſchief here. Their Method is to take faſt Hold with their Crab-like Claws, and turn their Tail (near the Extremity of which their Poiſon is lodged) over their Head, with the ſharp Point of which they make a Wound, and ſo mix their Venom with the Maſs of Blood.

The *Centipedes* almoſt cover our white Walls by Candle-Light, and vaniſh again on the firſt Dawn of Day. Their Bite is accounted venomous, and the *Minorquins* take Care to be furniſhed with Oil of Olives in which theſe hateful Animals and Scorpions have been infuſed, and it never fails of the wiſhed Succeſs, when they apply it in Time.

We have many Spiders, ſome of which theſe People imagine to be poiſonous; but I do not think the ſmall black Spider, ſo frequently found in cleaning and picking our Sallads, to be the *Tarantula* (of which ſo many pleaſant Things are reported by the Naturaliſts) though it is here looked upon to be ſuch.

I now proceed to give you ſome Account of the Birds of this Country, a Tribe that will be ſoon diſpatched, as we have but a few Species that have any Thing extraordinary to entitle them to a particular Deſcription.

Many Eagles breed in the craggy Hills of the North Side of the Iſland, building their Neſts

Neſts in Places inacceſſible to Men. We frequently ſee them in the Country, as alſo the Vulture, whenever there happens to be a Carrion; which does not tally exactly with the Opinion of ſome Authors, who declare the Eagle never eats the Fleſh of any Animal that it has not killed itſelf. On ſuch Occaſions the Eagle and Vulture ſeem to agree perfectly well, and appear to exerciſe a Kind of Diſcipline, ſome of them being detached to certain Diſtances, where they keep Watch on riſing Grounds, while the reſt feed in Security.

We have ſeveral Species of Hawks, and ſo many Owls, that we are every where entertained with their Note all Night long.

Seraque culminibus ferali carmine bubo
Viſa queri, & longas in fletum ducere noctes.
VIRG.

The Aſs uſually joins in the Melody, and when the Moon is about the Full, the Dog likewiſe intrudes himſelf as a Performer in the Concert, *making Night hideous.*

Swallows and Martins are very numerous all the Summer long. Colonel *Des Puig*, now a Priſoner of War here, aſſured me, that a famous *Italian* Miniature-Painter, whom he knew at *Florence*, made Uſe of the ſmall-pointed Feathers of the Martin's Wing as Pencils: I procured ſome of them, and found them to anſwer very well, where a fine Point is neceſſary.

We

We have great Plenty of the red legged Partridge, a beautiful Bird, and very delicious Meat, from the Middle of *Auguſt*, until the Corn fails them, and they are obliged to eat the Berries of the *Lentiſcus*, which give their Fleſh a diſagreeable Taſte, though they are little ſpared on that Account. Neither do we want good Quails in the Seaſon.

The Blackbird, Starling, Lark, Sparrow, and many other Kinds of ſmall Birds, are as common here as in *England*, and equally good: The Thruſh is an excellent Bird.

We frequently ſee the Wheat-Ear in this Country, but it is far inferior to that of the *Suſſex* Downs.

The Wild-Pigeon breeds in the Caverns of the Rocks all round the Iſland, and the young ones are deſervedly much eſteemed at our Tables. The Ring-Dove, both the brown and the white, we have common enough in the Woods. The *Minorquin* Peaſants take the young ones from the Neſt, and ſell them to ſome of our Gentlemen, who like to keep them in Cages; but their continual cooing is intolerable to ſome Ears.

We have Woodcock and Snipe in abundance, and Wild-Duck, Widgeon, and Teal, as good and as Plenty as any where.

As to the Bat, which ſome contend to be a Quadruped, while others labour to prove it is a Bird, as I think it certainly is, we have it in great Numbers. It has been long obſerved to be the only Bird that brings forth its

its Young alive, or ſuckles it, or that has Wings of thin Skins, without Feathers on them, and the Body covered with Hair. If it feeds on Gnats, as *Pliny* ſays, it is not likely to want Food in *Minorca*, where I think there ſhould be a Law to forbid the Deſtruction of Bats.

For of all our Inſects this *Muſquita*, or Gnat, is the moſt troubleſome, and if it were not for the Canopies of Gauze or Muſlin, with which our Beds are conſtantly encloſed during the hot Months, it would be impoſſible to get a Moment's Reſt.

We have a great many Butterflies, ſome of which are very beautiful. The Locuſt and Beetle are likewiſe frequent; but above all the Graſhopper, which grows to a large Size, and flies ſtrongly a great Way, when it has been diſturbed; its under Wings are of a beautiful red Colour, and it makes a great Noiſe in its Flight, as it conſtantly ſings while it reſts on the Ground. The Moths devour our Cloaths and Books, which it is impoſſible to ſecure from theſe pernicious Inſects: The Ants ever get at our Honey and Sugar; and the Flies every Day mix themſelves with our Potations.

Turkeys are plenty enough, and very good: They were ſold, while I was quartered at *Alaior*, for about three Shillings and Sixpence apiece.

A good Gooſe was worth one Shilling and Three-pence, and a Duck, full grown, Tenpence,

pence, or a Shilling; theſe are exceeding good, and are quickly fatted.

A Chicken uſually coſts Five-pence, a grown Fowl Seven-pence, a good Pullet Ten-pence.

The Fowls have black Feathers, for the moſt Part, and their Skins are of a dark Hue; but their Fleſh is very white, juicy, and delicate.

When a Fleet of Ships lies in *Port-Mahon*, the Price of Fowls riſes with the Demand, and is ſometimes more than double that I have mentioned above; but they are no ſooner gone, than the Markets return to the old Standard again, or pretty near it.

You will no doubt obſerve that I have been ſilent in this Letter as to Bees, which I ſhall ſpeak of in a future Trouble; wherefore I will here put an End to this, with aſſuring you, that I ſhall be all my Life,

SIR, Your, &c.

LETTER XIII.

SIR, MINORCA, 18 *Jan.* 1741-42.

THE *Minorquins* are very great Bigots, and, of Courſe, ſtrict Obſervers of the Faſts and Abſtinence enjoined by the Church. The Sea that ſurrounds them teems with a Variety of Fiſh; and though theſe People

People are no great Adventurers, they yet take them in ſufficient Quantities to ſupply their Markets all the Year round.

The *Dorada*, the ſame as the *Aurata* of *Rondeletius*, is an excellent Fiſh, and very common here: Its uſual Size is from twelve to eighteen Inches in Length.

We have great Sholes of *Anchovies* on our Coaſt during the warm Months; but theſe People have not learned the Method of pickling them, nor are they any way inquiſitive about it; though they have been told of the Advantages which accrue to their Neighbours from the vaſt Quantities of this delicious Fiſh which they annually export.

The *Donzella* is the *Julis* of *Rondeletius*, and is an excellent Fiſh. It is frequent on our Shores at all Times of the Year.

The *Molio* (which I take to be the *Phyſis* of the ſame Author) is a common Fiſh, and, in my Opinion, is not ſurpaſſed in Delicacy by any other of the finny Tribe in the *Mediterranean*.

It is equal to the beſt Whitings of the *Ocean*, ſo far as I can truſt my Palate, but of a larger Size: Like them too, it has the Stones in the Head, as Mr. *Ray* truly obſerves moſt of the ſquameous Fiſhes have.

I have found Stones in the Heads of a great Variety of the Scaly Tribes, though they are not be diſcovered in the Herring, Pilchard or Sprat, nor in the Mackarel, or the *Trachurus*, or Horſe-Mackarel.

We

We have the Skate on our Coaſt in ſufficient Plenty at all Times. It is remarkable, that this Animal protrudes its living young ones in ſquare Bags, containing beſides them a yellow Liquor.

The Skate commonly produces no more than two at a Time, each encloſed in its ſeparate Bag. Of theſe Bags I have ſeen great Numbers on the Shore. They lie among the Sea-Weed, and much reſemble it in Subſtance, as well as Colour.

The Plaiſe, Sole, Dab, and Flounder, are more rare; and it is great Pity theſe People do not catch more of them, ſince they are certainly as good as any in the World.

The Turbot is ſo ſeldom met with, that I know but of one that has been taken ſince my coming to the Iſland, and that was near *Ciudadella*.

Lampreys, Congers, and more eſpecially Eels, are very common here, and much eſteemed.

The Fiſhermen frequently catch the *Hippocampus*, or Sea-Horſe, in their Nets. This little Animal has a Fin behind the Head, that a good deal reſembles a Horſe's Mane: But it ever falls off in the drying.

The *Acus* of all Authors, or Sea-Pike, as our Soldiers call it, comes on our Coaſt in vaſt Sholes in the Autumn, and ſometimes ſooner.

This Fiſh is highly valued by the *Spaniards*, and is frequently brought to our Tables.

It

It eats ſomewhat like the Mackarel, and, as we have not that Fiſh, that I know of, we are glad of this, which makes ſome little Amends for the Want of it.

Beſides the above Names, it goes by ſeveral others in different Places; as, the Needle-Fiſh, the Gore-Bill, the Horn-Fiſh, the Gar-Fiſh, the Piper, *&c.*

But if we have not the Mackarel, we have the *Trachurus*, or Horſe-Mackarel, in great Plenty all the hot Weather. The *Minorquins*, who have good Stomachs, and are not very nice in eating, are very fond of this coarſe Fiſh, but we think it of little Value.

We have none of the *Aſelli*, or Cod-Kind, that frequent our Shores, ſo far as I have been able to learn: For I have never ſeen the ſecond *Anthias* of *Rondeletius*, which Mr. *Willughbey* * ſays is a Species of this Kind.

The Salmon and Trout are not be looked for in this Country, which is deſtitute of Rivers. But we have the Smelt in Plenty, which has the Violet-Smell, or rather the Cucumber-Smell, as ſome incline to think it.

The *Sardina* abounds on our Coaſt, during the warm Weather, and the Natives pickle a few of them.

Mr. *Willughbey* takes the *Sardina* to be a ſmall Pilchard, † that of the *Ocean*, as this great Man will have it, growing to a larger Size

* *Hiſt. Piſc. l.* 4. *Cap.* 27. *Sect.* 1. † *Ibid. l.* 4. *Cap.* 9. *Sect.* 2.

Size than this of ours in the *Mediterranean* ever attains to.

He likewiſe thinks Sprats to be no other than young Herrings and Pilchards, in which laſt Opinion Mr. *Ray* agrees with him. *

Now, Sir, I beſpeak your Candour to believe, that it is with the utmoſt Diffidence I venture to mention a Particular or two, which incline me to ſuſpect, that theſe excellent Authors, whoſe ſucceſsful Labours in Natural Hiſtory can never be too much commended, are in an Error concerning the Sprat and the *Sardina*.

I hope it will be allowed, that the Herring and Pilchard arrive at their full Growth before they breed; for Mr. *Ray* himſelf ſays, in his Letter to Dr. *Tancred Robinſon*, of the 15th of *April*, 1692, that both theſe Fiſhes come to their *full Growth* in a Year's Time, and *then breed* †.

Now if the Sprat is found to be full-roed, and its Roes are as large and turgid, in Proportion, as thoſe of the Herring or Pilchard, and yet of not half their Length, which I have not known it to exceed, it may poſſibly be concluded that Sprats are a diſtinct Species of the *Harrengiformes*, and never can become Herrings or Pilchards.

And that Sprats *are* full-roed, at the uſual Time of catching them, I have myſelf ſeen, with

* *Ray*'s Letters, p. 261. † Ibid.

with the naked Eye, a thouſand Times, and could eaſily diſtinguiſh between the hard Roes and the ſoft ones.

Beſides, as ſome few Herrings are now and then taken amongſt the Sprats, and theſe are conſtantly obſerved to be ſhotten, as the Fiſhermen term it, that is, to have caſt their Spawn; does not this ſhew us, that the Herring and the Sprat have different Seaſons of ſpawning?

Then how are we to account for the Difference in their Size at that Time? If it be anſwered, that the Herrings are upwards of a Year old, and the Sprats but half a Year, this correſponds but ill with the foregoing Obſervation, that Herrings and Pilchards *come to their full Growth, before they begin to breed.*

Again I would aſk, whence comes it, that we never ſee Herrings and Pilchards of all the intermediate Sizes between theirs and that of the Sprat, as ſeveral chance Herrings are taken by the Fiſhermen on the Coaſt of *England*, in moſt Months of the Year, and particularly among the early Whitings in *April* and *May*, and among the Mackarel all the Seaſon, and yet they are ever at their full Growth, or fall very little ſhort of it?

I could add, if it were neceſſary, that all the Fiſhermen I have had an Opportunity of talking with, are clearly of Opinion, that Sprats are by no means young Herrings or Pilchards; and ſome of them have pointed out

out to me a real Difference in the Make of the Head.

Beſides, if the Sholes of Sprats are young Herrings and Pilchards, how comes it to paſs, that they herd together? whereas Pilchards and Herrings, though both of them gregarious, never mix at all; unleſs you will except a Straggler, now and then, as we find ſome among Whitings and Mackarel.

Then, as to the *Sardina*, do not the black Spots on the Sides, mentioned by Mr. *Willughbey*, diſtinguiſh it from the Pilchard, which has no ſuch Marks? Perhaps it may not be amiſs to mention another eſſential Difference that there is in the Shapes of both, the Pilchard being more flat and compreſſed, and a much broader Fiſh than the *Sardina*.

This is all that occurs to me on the Subject; and I will not be ſo vain to flatter myſelf, that I have eſtabliſhed this Point of natural Hiſtory on a new Baſis; but leave it to you, to determine on the Subject as you ſhall think fit: What I have ſaid was with a View to your Satisfaction, and your Acceptance of it is my Reward.

The *Buferas* abound with Mullets, that grow to great Bulk there, and are very good. Of the Roes of the Female Mullet *Botargo* is made, being no other than the *Ova* ſalted and dried. This helps a decayed Appetite, and gives Reliſh to a Glaſs of Wine, and might

might be eaſily prepared and cured here, where the Fiſh is ſo plenty and cheap.

But the commoneſt Fiſhes we have are thoſe our Soldiers call Rock-fiſh, from their keeping near the rocky Shores in the ſeveral Harbours of *Minorca*.

Vaſt Quantities of them are daily brought to Market, and nothing can be more beautiful than their Colouring, being marked acroſs their Bodies with very lively Stripes of Blue, Red, or Green. They ſeldom exceed eight or nine Inches in Length, and are ſold for about Four-pence Halfpenny the long Pound.

The Cuttle-Fiſh is not uncommon on our Shores, and its Bones, the *Os Sepia* of the Shops, are found in ſufficient Plenty, for the Uſe of the Silverſmiths and Apothecaries.

I have often tried its ink in Drawing, and find it to be a warm Colour, more beautiful than Biſtre, and working freely and pleaſantly with Water; in which Reſpect it is not ſurpaſſed by Indian Ink itſelf.

The Ink is contained in a Kind of Bladder, which being taken out of the Body, and waſhed, is then emptied into a Tea-Cup, where it ſoons dries, hardens, and cracks into ſeveral Pieces, which then are to be managed exactly as Indian Ink is.

This Uſe of the Cuttle Fiſh Ink was ſuggeſted to me, on ſeeing ſome of it ſpilt on the Deck of a Boat, as I trawled for Flat Fiſh at *Spithead* in 1734, and I contrived to ſave a little to make the Experiment.

This Fiſh diſcharges its Ink when it is purſued, with which it tinctures the Water to ſo deep a Colour, that it eaſily eſcapes from its Enemy; as is obſerved by *Pliny*, in the 29th Chapter of his ninth Book.

Its Beak is of a horny Subſtance, and the upper Part turns down on the lower, ſomewhat like that of a Parrot.

This Ink was well known to *Ariſtotle*, *Oppian*, *Horace*, and others among the Ancients; but I do not know that it was ever uſed by them or the Moderns in Writing or Drawing.

Of the cruſtaceous Fiſhes, we have only one in Plenty, and that is the Sea Cray-fiſh, which is deſervedly eſteemed here. The Lobſter, the Crab, and the Shrimp, we ſometimes have, but their Numbers are ſmall.

The Soldier-Fiſh is common enough: The *French* call it *Bernard l'ermite*; but our *Engliſh* Name (which does not come from its red Colour, as ſome imagine) is certainly more expreſſive of the Nature of a Fiſh, which being poſſeſſed of no Houſe of its own, is obliged once a Year, to hunt out for an empty Shell, as he out-grows the old one, and will maintain an obſtinate Fight with any Competitor that pretends to diſpute the Prize with him.

That Part of the Soldier which lies towards the Bottom of the Shell (which is generally of the *Buccinum*-Tribe) is only covered with a Membrane; but its Fore-Parts

Parts are cruſtaceous; ſo that poſſibly it ought to be ranked among the Semi-cruſtaceous Fiſhes, if the Naturaliſts have any ſuch Diſtinction.

The moſt numerous of our Shell-Fiſh is undoubtedly the *Echinus*, or Sea-Urchin; the Sea-Egg of our Soldiers; for it ſticks every where to the Rock, in ſuch Plenty, that we are obliged to wear our Shoes as we go into the Water to ſwim, or to bathe ourſelves, or their Prickles would make miſerable Work with our Feet.

Of theſe we have little Variety, only two Species of the *Echinus Ovarius*, that I have obſerved: one of them is ſometimes more than three Inches in Diameter, very thick ſet round with ſmall black Prickles; the other is ſmaller, but the Spines a good deal longer.

Among the Shells we find on our Shores, may be reckoned Limpits, Sea-Ears, *Tellinæ*, *Chamæ*, Scollops (with one Ear, and with two, both exceſſively beautiful, and of all Colours, but very ſmall) Cockles, the Razor-Fiſh, Muſſles, Purples, Whilks (a great many Species) *Neritæ*, *Conchæ Veneris*, and many more, which by the Varieties of their Species, and their different Colours, furniſh out a Number of Cabinets here that are very well worth ſeeing.

The *Nautilus* is far from being ſcarce on our Coaſt, but it is ſo tender a Shell, that it is extremely difficult to avoid breaking it.

Of large Conchs we have ſeveral Kinds: The *Spaniards* eat the Fiſh, and blow with the Shell, inſtead of a Horn, (when they are at Work among the Rocks) to alarm the People, on their preparing to ſpring a Mine.

One Inducement to their uſing this Shell, and ſometimes that of the great Whilks, ariſes from that Hatred they bear to the Sight and Name of a Horn; for they never mention it but in Anger, and then they curſe with it, ſaying, *Cuerno*, as they would *Diablo*.

And now, Sir, I fear I ſhall bring my Credit with you into ſome Hazard, being to relate what is ſcarcely to be believed, and yet is an indubitable Fact; and that is of a certain Muſſle (the *Pholas* of *Rondeletius*) that lies hid in the Rocks at the Bottom of *Mahon* Harbour, and in other Places about the Iſland.

To come at theſe *Datyls*, as the *Spaniards* call them, a huge Stone is haled aſhore with Ropes, and broke to Pieces with Iron Sledges, and then they appear lying in all Directions to the very Center of the Rock.

The Fiſh is contained in two ſimilar Shells about the Bigneſs and Length of a Finger, little depreſſed, and of nearly the ſame Breadth from one End to the other.

I make no doubt but that the minute Bodies from which the *Datyls* have grown to this Bulk, were at firſt worked into the natural Cavities of the Rock, by the Force of the Water,

Water, which has conveyed the neceſſary Suſtenance to them by the ſame Channels ever ſince.

Nay the Salt-Water, may, for aught I know, have formed thoſe very Holes originally, and multiplied them by Degrees, ſo as to receive ſuch incredible Numbers of theſe teſtaceous Inhabitants.

Mr. *Lhwyd* affirms, in a Letter to Mr. *Ray*, that he has ſeen Stones containing *Pholades*, without any viſible *Meatus*, from the Surface, or the other Holes; but ſome that I have examined, have a ſmall *Meatus*, and, as *Rondeletius* juſtly remarks, it ſcarcely admits of a Needle to be thruſt into it; yet this Chink muſt be large enough to give Entrance to the Fiſh's Food, or it could not live a Minute.

Mr. *Lhwyd* alſo ſays, "it is manifeſt from "Experience, that the Spawn of Animals "may inſinuate itſelf into the Maſs of "Stone."

And indeed it is not more ſurprizing to find them here, than that Toads have been frequently found included within the moſt ſolid Marble, without either Cleft or Hole to be perceived, through which they were firſt admitted, and received Air and Nouriſhment, of which many Inſtances are to be found in Dr. *Plot*'s Natural Hiſtory of *Staffordſhire*.

It is not to be ſuppoſed, that the *Datyls* we thus find in Stone have lived there from

the General Deluge; neither can it be imagined they have propagated their Kind ever ſince; for in that Caſe, a huge Heap of their Shells muſt have remained, as Mr. *Lhwyd* long ſince obſerved on a like Occaſion.

Our *Datyls*, ſo far as I have obſerved, are ever found in the common Cantoon Stone, already deſcribed.

The *Datyl* is certainly the moſt delicious of all the Muſſle-Kind, and the Expence is not great of procuring them.

Out of a Rock of about a Ton Weight, we got upwards of a Peck of them.

I never could diſcover the offenſive Smell *Athenæus* imputes to the *Pholas*, as quoted by *Rondeletius*; but that they are very nouriſhing, I can eaſily grant him.

The *Nacar* is a very large Muſſle, taken here in great Numbers. It is the *Pinna magna* of Authors, and extends from the *Cardo* to the Verge three Feet in Length (though ſome are not more than half this Size) and is there eighteen or twenty Inches broad.

The Inſide is of the beautiful Complexion of Mother of Pearl, but it is rough, and in ſome Meaſure prickly without. It is worked by the *French* into Toys and Trinkets of a thouſand Sorts.

Near the Joint is a Bunch of yellowiſh ſilky Matter, from four to ten Inches long, and when ſqueezed together, as thick as one's Finger.

This

This Silk, as I ſhall call it, is capable of being ſpun, and knitted into Stockings or Gloves, as it frequently has been out of Curioſity, and Dr. *Shaw* ſuppoſes it to be the *Byſſus* of the Ancients. *

Pliny † cites *Athenæus*, who affirms the *Nacar* to be the ſame as the *Pecten*; but he is certainly miſtaken, for it is not a Scollop, but a Muſſle.

We frequently find the empty Shells of the *Pinna parva* on our Shores, not exceeding half an Inch in Length; and they are generally rubbed in the Sand to the Appearance of Mother of Pearl on the Outſide; that is, their rugged Cruſt is worn off by their having been long beat about in the Sand, by the Waves of the Sea.

The *Purpura*, from which the *Tyrian*-Dye was procured, is very frequent about the Iſland; of which the Hiſtory is well known. The Entrance of the Shell is well ſecured by an *Operculum*, or Lid, which adheres ſo firmly to the Fiſh, that it can protrude it at Pleaſure, when it would ſearch for Food, and draw it in again, upon the leaſt Apprehenſion of Danger.

This Lid is of an Oval Figure, flat on the Side, by which it is made faſt, and of a pale yellow Colour, but ſomewhat rounded on the upper Side, and when firſt taken out of a florid Red.

* Travels, Excerpt. p. 51. † Nat. Hiſt. l. 9.

Such of them as are picked up on the ſandy Shores are faded to a dull Yellow.

On the flat Side we ſee certain obſcure Lines, turning ſpirally, and ſhewing how its Dimenſions were enlarged, that it might continue to fit the Mouth of the Shell as it grew.

When broken, they are white within, and are of a teſtaceous Subſtance; it is no Wonder then, that being *Alcalies*, they ſhould move in *Acids*, from whence our People have given them the Name of *Creeping-Stones*.

We ſee *Opercula* in moſt other of the turbinated Shells, but they are in ſome, compoſed of very different Matter from theſe, but all that I have ſeen agreeing in the ſpiral Lines, which are deeper cut in ſome than in others.

Of the Sea-Star we have great Numbers, but little Variety. Of the common ſort, the firſt Species of *Rondeletius*, we have them of two, three, four, and five Rays; theſe laſt are the moſt frequent, from whence they are vulgarly called *Five-Fingers*.

But much more rare is the *Stella-Marina Arboreſcens*, which it has never been my Fortune to find entire; though, as I have already ſaid *, I have ſeen many Fragments of it.

Of thoſe Sea-Stars that have twelve or thirteen Rays, I have never ſeen any here, though they are not unfrequently found on the Coaſt of *Kent* and *Suſſex* in *England*.

Theſe Stars are great Enemies to Oyſters, and the other bivalve Shell-Fiſhes, getting

* Page, 79.

into

into the Shells, and ſucking them; and, you know, the Dredgers in the *Thames* are obliged to deſtroy them on this Account, or incur a ſevere Penalty, if they neglect it.

They are very quick of Motion, which they perform by extending their Rays, or Fingers, and then ſuddenly contracting them again.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER XIV.

SIR, MINORCA, 9 *Feb.* 1741-42.

IT is of great Advantage to the Inhabitants of a warm Climate, to be well ſupplied with Vegetables, of which *Minorca* boaſts a large Catalogue, as well for the Table, as for the Conſideration of the Botaniſt. But I ſhall confine what I have to ſay on this Subject to the former Kind, many of which are of an exquiſite Flavour, and coming to Maturity at different Seaſons, furniſh out great Plenty and Variety round the Year.

Wheat and Barley are the only Kind of Corn that theſe Iſlanders ſow, if you will not except a very inconſiderable Quantity of *Indian*-Corn, in the Neighbourhood of *Adaia*, and ſome few other Places.

Their Harveſts are generally gathered by the Middle of *June*; and as the Corn ripens, a Number of Boys and Girls ſtation themſelves at the Edges of the Fields, and on the Tops of the Fence-Walls, to fright away the ſmall Birds with their Shouts and Cries.

This puts one in Mind of *Virgil*'s Precept, in the firſt Book of the *Georgicks*,

Et ſonitu terrebis aves———

and was a Cuſtom, I doubt not, among the *Roman* Farmers, from whom the antient *Minorquins* learned it.

They alſo uſe for the ſame Purpoſe a ſplit Reed, which makes a horrid rattling, as they ſhake it with their Hands.

Their more common Produce is ſix for one; but nine for one is reckoned an extraordinary Crop. Their Corn is trod out in the Field; the Beaſts that tread it out on the bare Rock, theſe People have ſo little Conſcience as to muzzle, either out of Ignorance, or in Defiance of the poſitive Injunction to the contrary in the Old Teſtament. They winnow their Corn likewiſe on the Spot, by toſſing it up in the Wind, and ſtore that and their Straw very carefully.

Straw is the only Fodder, and when it is chopt ſmall, that, and a little Barley, are to the Horſes, Mules, and Aſſes of *Minorca*, what Hay and Oats are to our Horſes.

It is probable that Peas and Beans were introduced here by Governor *Kane*, though now

now they are ſufficiently plenty, and come in early in the Spring.

The *Spaniards* are ſtill fond of their Garvançoes, and Lentils, which ſome of our Soldiers have learned of them to eat; as they alſo uſe *Calabaſhes*, or Pompions, and *Tomatas* in their Soups, with Leeks, Onions, and Garlick, in Imitation of theſe People. The *French*-Bean abounds here in its Seaſon, and is very good.

Their Turnips are hard and ſticky, and therefore much inferior to ours, yet they are a grateful Article in the Compoſition of our Soups. Their Parſnips and Carrots are of a good Kind.

The Collyflowers are extreamly good, and continue in Seaſon ſix or ſeven Months of the Year; and their Cabbages are the beſt I ever eat any where.

They have Plenty of theſe, as they likewiſe have of Spinage, Savoys, Coleworts, and ſeveral other Kinds, very cheap; of which our Soldiers eat great Quantities with their Salt-Beef.

Their Lettuce is of a bad Sort, but their Sallad is eaſily improved by a Mixture of Garden and Water-Creſſes, young Radiſhes, and Chervil. In the Spring Dandelion (which theſe People call *Camarojas*) is eaten by many; but its extream Bitterneſs was ever diſtaſteful to me, though it is accounted very wholeſome. I cannot commend their Artichoak; though the young Stalks, if boiled

boiled till they are tender, and carefully ſtripped, are of a delicate Flavour.

Their Celery is very good, as is likewiſe the Endive, and many of their Muſk-Melons are excellent: But the Water-Melon, which comes in by the latter End of *June*, when the Weather is at the hotteſt, is ſo cooling, ſo juicy and delicious, that it cannot be ſufficiently commended. It never ſurfeits in any Quantity; nay the *Spaniards* give it freely to their Children in Fevers, without the leaſt Apprehenſion of its doing them Hurt: It continues to the Middle of *October*.

Egypt itſelf cannot boaſt of better Leeks, Onions, and Garlick, than are produced here, in great Abundance; and indeed the Gardens furniſh us liberally with many other uſeful Plants for our Tables, ſuch as Thyme, Hyſop, Winter-Savoury, Marjoram, Marigold, Fennel, Sage, Parſley, Succory, Shallots, Sorrel, Beets, Radiſh, Horſe-Radiſh, Mint, *&c.* The Cucumbers are excellent, and much larger than ours.

Of late a little Aſparagus has been propagated here, which does not ſucceed ſo well as one could wiſh. Of the wild Kind, there is Plenty every where. What we eat are the young Shoots of a prickly Shrub of the Size of a Gooſeberry-Buſh. They require to be ſteeped all Night in Salt and Water, to take off their bitter Taſte, and are then agreeable enough to the Palate. Theyare ſaid to be diuretick, and (in two or three Hours

Hours after we have eat them) conſtantly put us in Mind of another Quality they likewiſe poſſeſs in common with the Garden-Aſparagus.

Here is great Plenty of the *Guinea*-Pepper, the green Pods of which the *Minorquins* are exceſſively fond. Of theſe a valuable Pickle is made. Such as they ſuffer to hang till the Seeds are ripe, acquire a red Colour, and being dried, and reduced to a fine Powder, are much uſed in their Cookery and are well known to the World under the Name of *Cayan*-Butter.

Roſemary and Wormwood, grow wild on the rocky Hills, with a happy Variety of other Medicinal Plants, which however it is no Part of my Intention to enumerate in this Place.

Vaſt Quantities of Samphire grow on the Cliffs by the Sea-ſide, ſome of which our People frequently pickle. It is larger and more luxuriant than that of *Dover*-Cliff, and at leaſt equal to it in Flavour.

There is ſcarcely an old Wall in the Iſland that does not produce the Capre-Plant in great Abundance. The Capres are no other than the Buds of the Flower, gathered before they expand, and dried in the Shade: They are then put up in Pots, with Vinegar and a little Salt, and kept for Uſe.

The *Spaniards* uſually ſell them to us when they are thoroughly dried, and then we have nothing to do, but to add the Vinegar and Salt;

Salt; but ſometimes our Officers Wives take the Trouble to go through the whole Proceſs themſelves; and when they manage them ſkilfully, and with the Care that is neceſſary, I think they are the beſt Capres in the World.

We are not to look for either Beauty or Regularity in the Gardens of theſe People, who only ſtudy to turn their Spot of Ground to the greateſt Advantage.

Their Leeks, Onions, Carrots, and ſome other Kinds, they ſow very thick in Beds, and afterwards tranſplant them to the Place where they are to remain until they come to Maturity.

Every Garden is provided with a Well, from whence the Beds are conſtantly watered every Evening, without which the young Plants muſt inevitably periſh in the frequent Droughts of this Climate, which often continue three or four Months together.

Every Bed has a ſlender Mound about its Edge, to confine the Water, which is let in, from the bordering Channel, to the Height of two or three Inches.

The Water is drawn out of the Well by the *Perſian*-Wheel, as it is called ſimply, though the Engine really conſiſts of two Wheels. I ſhall give you ſuch a Deſcription of it, as will, I flatter myſelf, give you a clear Idea of this uſeful Machine.

And I ſhall do this the more willingly, as it is the only Contrivance for raiſing Water that

that is in Uſe here, and the principal one all over the *Levant*; though the Authors, who have treated of theſe Parts, have contented themſelves with barely mentioning it.

Over the Center of the Well is a Wheel, of about five Feet Diameter, vertically placed, and ſuſtained by an Axis, which reſts, at both Ends, on the Kirb.

Over this Wheel is a looſe Band made of Myrtle-Twigs, and reaching a Foot or two below the Surface of the Water.

A competent Number of Earthen Pitchers, holding about three Pints a-piece, are faſtened to the Band, by the narrow Neck, their Mouths all turned the ſame Way.

An Horizontal Wheel is fixed near this, in ſuch Manner that its Pinions, or Trundles, may fall in very exactly with the Coggs, or Pins of the vertical one. The Axis of this laſt riſes to ſuch a Height, that a long Pole, tenented into it at the Top, freely goes round, over the whole Work, without rubbing.

At the outward, or ſmaller, End of the Pole, a Cow, or an Aſs, is yoked, and gives Motion to the Engine. As the Pitchers come to the Top, they empty themſelves into a Stone-Trough, from whence the Water is conveyed by a Canal into a Ciſtern, which ſtands high enough for the Water to run freely to all Parts of the Garden.

The Water lies ſome Hours in the Ciſtern, expoſed to the Rays of the Sun, by which a good

good deal of that Chilneſs is removed, which would be very prejudicial to the tender Plants; and I have known very ſkilful Gardeners in *England*, who, when their Pots were filled, ſet them for ſome Time in the Sun, for the ſame Reaſon.

Of Fruits, the firſt Place is due to the Grape; not only on Account of the Wine which is made of its Juice, but with reſpect alſo to the Grapes themſelves, which come to ripen in *July*, and continue to be gathered from the Vine until the latter End of *October*.

Then a freſh Supply is taken from the Cielings, of ſuch Bunches as were hung up by the Stalk, as ſoon as they were ripe: Theſe preſerve themſelves plump and juicy till after *Chriſtmas*, and are followed by the Grapes dried in the Sun, or Raiſins.

Their Grapes are of ſeveral Kinds; the large round red, and the large round white Grape; the long red Grape, and the long white Grape; the ſmall round Grape of both Colours; the ſmall black Grape, in ſcattering Cluſters; the white Muſcadel Grape, and many others. All theſe are indifferently mingled together for the making of Wine.

We may form a Judgment of the Quantity of Grapes produced yearly in *Minorca*, by the Tithes, which amount to fourteen thouſand *Quintals*, in the following Proportions.

Ciudadella

Ciudadella Termino pays -	2000	*Quintals*
Mahon - - - - -	6000	
Alaior - - - - -	2000	
Mercadal and *Fererias* - -	4000	
Total - - - - - -	14000	

Theſe Tithes are paid in Kind, and are one eleventh Part of the whole; ſo that a Hundred and fifty four Thouſand *Quintals*, are the annual Produce of the Iſland.

The Value of theſe Grapes, at ſeven *Reals* a *Quintal*, as they are uſually ſold, is Twenty ſix thouſand nine hundred and fifty Pounds Sterling.

I find, by a Minute among my Papers, that in the Year 1740, there were four thouſand Butts of Wine made in the Iſland; and though many of theſe are very large, and ſome of them hold ſix or ſeven Cargos a-piece; yet, one with another, the Quantity of Wine cannot be eſtimated at more than twelve, or, at moſt, thirteen thouſand Hogſheads, made that Year.

But it is neceſſary I ſhould apprize you in this Place, that the Natives every Year increaſe their Plantations of the Vine, and therefore the Quantity of Grapes will, in all Probability, in a few Years, double that I have mentioned above, which ſhews only the preſent State of their Vineyards.

The *Spaniards* begin cutting their Grapes about the ſixth of *September*, and as ſoon as they

they are all brought in, the Wine is begun to be made.

In *December* we taſte the Wine, and mark what we like, appointing a Time when we propoſe to draw it off. If it turns ſour, in the mean while, we leave it.

The *Minorquins* are at Liberty to ſell their Wine among themſelves after St. *Martin*'s Day, *N. S.* but they are forbid ſelling it to the *Engliſh* before St. *Thomas*'s Day, the twenty-firſt of *December*, *N. S.* under the Penalty of ten *Dollars*.

We ſeldom begin to drink our new Wine before the Month of *April*, but the Soldiers have it retailed to them as ſoon as the above Regulation allows it.

There is but little White-Wine made here, though the Price might well tempt them to go more into it, being four Times as much as the Red-Wine goes at.

They uſually boil it, and then it is of a diſagreeable luſcious Taſte: But a Kind has been lately made in ſmall Quantities at *Alaior*, that is little inferior to the beſt *French* White-Wines.

The Red-Wine of *Minorca* is not of the ſame Complexion and Flavour in all Parts of the Iſland. That of *Ciudadella* is good Wine, of a deeper red than the reſt, and very ſtrong.

That of *Mahon* is moſt eſteemed, being of a beautiful Amethyſt Colour, ſmooth in the Mouth, and of a ſufficient Strength to preſerve

ſerve it in the Country for ſeveral Years, and to admit of its being ſent to *England*.

But the *Alaior* Wine has certainly the beſt Flavour, and ſome of it approaches very near the Excellence of *Burgundy*, and is of the ſame Colour. But it wants much of the Strength of the other, and therefore it will not bear the Sea.

What they make in *Mercadal* and *Fererias*, is inferior to all the other Wines, except that which is produced from the old Vineyards belonging to the Fryars of *Mount Toro*.

I have already ſaid, we begin upon our new Wine in *April*, which is generally the Caſe; though ſome curious Gentlemen keep theirs to a greater Age, even three or four Years, and then hold it in great Eſteem.

But I cannot think the Wine is hereby improved, as it becomes tawny, and loſes a good deal of its Flavour, a Loſs the *Minorca* Wine does not ſo well bear as thoſe of the *French* Growth, which are more remarkable for a full Flavour.

I ſhould think I trifled with you in obſerving, that a red and a white Grape, when the Skin is peeled off, are of the ſame Colour, if ſo great a Man as Sir *Francis Bacon* had not been of a contrary Opinion, and affirmed, that the red Grape was of the ſame Colour throughout. The Experiment is ſo eaſily made, that I will ſay no more on this Head.

The

The Apricot of this Country is inſipid and unwholeſome; The Peaches are very bad: But I have eat ſome excellent Nectarines at a Vineyard near *Alaior*, where however they are produced in no great Quantities: Yet theſe few ſhew the Soil to be kindly enough for the Nectarine; and as it is the only Stone-Fruit that arrives to any tolerable Perfection in this Country, it is Pity they do not increaſe it.

It may be thought ſuperfluous to add to this Remark, that we have here no good Plumbs or Cherries: But it may not be impertinent to inform you of a Gum produced from a ſmall red Plumb in great Plenty.

It is an Exſudation from the Fruit, and adheres to it in white tranſparent Grains; and I can aſſure you, from my own repeated Trials, that it is equal to the beſt Gum-*Arabick* for the Uſe of a Draughtſman: But the Gum that iſſues from the Branches of the Tree is vaſtly inferior to this.

The large black Fig, and the ſmall white one, are both excellent, and ſo are many of the Pomegranates. The Mulberries and Almonds are very plenty among us, and very excellent they are. The Almond Tree is an early Bearer; and its Bloom is extremely delightful to the Eyes, and perfumes the vernal Air with a Profuſion of Sweets.

Though I do not know that we have the white Mulberry Tree in *Minorca*, yet as the red thrives well, there is no doubt but the Soil is as ſuitable to the other. It

It would therefore be extreamly worth while to propagate it, and then the Silk-Worm would introduce among theſe People a very valuable Article of Commerce, ſo advantageouſly carried on in the Countries about them.

We have a few Wallnuts, and a Cheſnut-Tree or two, which hitherto have turned to little Account. But Hazle-nuts and Filberds are not to be found here.

Dr. *Auchmutty* procured, ſome Years ſince, a few Gooſeberry and Currant Trees, and planted them in his Vineyard near *Mahon*; where indeed they bear, but their Fruit continually degenerates both in Size and Taſte.

There are ſeveral Palm-Trees here, but the People are ignorant of their proper Culture, and therefore they produce no Dates; ſo that as their Trunks, though very large, and of a conſiderable Length, are of no manner of Uſe, either as Timber, or for Fuel, they are planted meerly for Ornament, and make a pleaſing Variety among the other Trees of their Gardens.

The red Mulberry arrives to great Perfection in this Climate. The Tree is large, and its thick-leaved Branches afford a comfortable and extenſive Shade in hot Weather, as its Fruit aſſwages Thirſt, and regales the Palate.

The Olive-Tree grows wild all over the Iſland, and generally bears very well; but either the Olives are not of the right Kind for pickling,

pickling, or the *Minorquins* are ignorant of the right Way of doing it; for thoſe that they pickle, none but themſelves can eat.

Neither do they attempt to make Oil from their Olives, alledging that their Country is ſo much expoſed to the Northerly Winds, that their Fruit is ſpoiled by them, and made unfit for the Preſs.

But this is not the only Inſtance of their covering their inſuperable Indolence with idle Excuſes, that have been a thouſand times expoſed and refuted.

The Wood of the Olive-Tree is the beſt Fuel we have, and I have often ſeen the large Trunks ſplit for the Fire, ſo beautifully veined and variegated, that they would have been highly ornamental in the fineſt Works of a *London* Cabinet-Maker.

We have Lemons in great Plenty throughout the Year, except in *Auguſt* and *September*, when they are ſometimes ſcarce, and ſometimes wholly fail us, as they did in *Auguſt*, 1738: But for the moſt Part we are well ſupplied.

We have the *Seville* and the *China* Orange in Abundance; and during the Winter Months they are exceeding cheap. Here are alſo the *Burgamot*, and the *Citron*. I know but of one Lime-Tree, and that grows in the Gardens at *Santa-Gracia*, and bears very well.

I muſt not any longer defer acquainting you, that the *Minorquins* never prune a Tree, thinking

thinking it irreligious in ſome Degree to preſume to direct its Growth; and if you expreſs your Wonder that they forbear this uſeful Practice, and inform them of the Advantages that attend it in other Countries, their Anſwer is ever ready, *God knows beſt how a Tree ſhould grow.*

The Quince and Medlar are very common here; of the former the *Spaniards* make a Marmalade, that they are very fond of.

The Prickly-Pear is obſerved in every Garden and Vineyard. The Natives make Fences of it, and increaſe it with very little Trouble. They only thruſt a ſingle Leaf half Way into the Earth, and it rarely fails to ſtrike Root, and thrive.

They are fond of its Fruit, and reckon it wholeſome; but its flat ſweet Taſte does not recommend it to a Place at our Tables, where we give the Preference to Fruits of the tarter Kind.

Mr. *Ray* thinks * the *Prickly-Pear*, or *Ficus Indica*, as he calls it, is not a Native of *Europe*, but originally an *American*; and Dr. *Shaw* † ſeems to think it a Foreigner in *Africa*, and ſays, the *Algerines* call the Fruit of the *Opuntia*, *Kermez Naſſarah*, the Fig of the Chriſtians, perhaps (ſays he) from being originally brought from *Europe*. The *Minorquins* call them *Figos Moriſcas*, *Mooriſh* Figs.

The

* Letters, p. 160. † Travels, p. 227.

The *Arbutus*, or Strawberry-Tree, deſerves to be mentioned here, on account of its Fruit, which the *Spaniards* feed upon, and eſteem a Dainty, though we deſpiſe it for its luſcious Taſte.

It is the only Tree I know that bears a Fruit reſembling that of a reptile Plant. This Tree produces a conſtant Succeſſion of ripe Fruit round the Year, and at the ſame Time ſhews a pleaſing Variety of green Fruit and Bloſſoms.

It is alſo a Native of the Weſtern Parts of *Ireland*, from whence Lord *Edgcombe* procured ſome of the Plants for his Gardens at *Mount-Edgcomb*, where I once ſaw them; and though they thrive very well, they are far from attaining the Height and Luxuriance of thoſe in *Minorca*.

The *Romans* called this Fruit *Unedo*, as it was of ſo bitter and unpleaſant a Taſte, that not above one could be eat at the ſame Time, with Satisfaction, though it muſt be confeſſed, our *Spaniards* are not altogether ſo ſqueamiſh.

The Myrtle is a very common Shrub with us, and a very uſeful one to the Natives, who feed upon the Berries, and employ the young Tops in dying and in tanning their Leather.

If our Tanners in *England* could fall into this Method, for ſome of their Leather at leaſt, our beſt Oaks might be felled at the proper Seaſon, and would be much more durable

rable than they are; being cut down in Summer, when the Sap is up, purely for the Eaſe of ſtripping off the Bark.

Nor is this quite ſo chimerical as it may appear at firſt Sight to ſome, who do not know that the Myrtle is a Native of *Cornwall*; and as it grows there very plentifully, it might be eaſily propagated in *Devonſhire*, and other Counties, ſo as to be produced, in the Courſe of a few Years, in any Quantities that ſhould be found neceſſary.

The Pine is common on the Mountains: The Olive likes a Plain: But the moſt flouriſhing Timber-Tree is the Ever-green Oak. Of this there are large Woods in many Places; but thoſe that proſper beſt grow about *Alaior*, and St. *Patrick*'s Well.

The ever-green Oak is a fruitful Bearer, and its Acorns have been ſent into *England*, where the Tree flouriſhes. *Virgil* mentions the Acorns to have been the Food of the Swine in his Age, as I have already ſhewn they are at preſent the principal Nouriſhment, while they laſt, of the Hogs of our Iſland. The *Spaniards* ſhare theſe Delicacies with their Swine, and laugh at us for not partaking the Regale.

The Elm is a Foreigner, yet a few of them thrive very well by the Harbour's Side, at the *Pratica*-Houſe.

I have obſerved the White-Thorn in a Wood near *Alaior*, but it is not uſed in

Fences, theſe People encloſing their Grounds wholly with Stone-Walls.

I will mention another Tree which I once ſaw in the *Termino* of *Mahon*, and which is not very Plenty here; I mean the Locuſt-Tree.

It is a tall ſpreading Tree, bears a vaſt Quantity of Pods, that reſemble thoſe of the largeſt *French*-Beans, and have their Seeds diſpoſed in the ſame Manner.

The *Spaniards* feed upon theſe Pods as long as they continue, and they are of a ſweet Taſte that is far from diſagreeable. The Fruit of this Tree ſome think to be the ſame that, with the Addition of Wild-Honey, ſupported St. *John* the Baptiſt for ſome Time in the Wilderneſs.

We have the Canary-Seed growing wild in many Parts of the Iſland. A few Oats are obſerved among the Wheat, but they have every Effect of a Weed here, as they were accounted by the Old *Romans*.

Steriles dominantur avenæ.

Muſhrooms we have, and very good, after a Shower of Rain; and Morells are very common, though they are never brought into Uſe: We ſee them every where in our Walks in great Plenty.

Coral, Coralline, and a Variety of Submarine Plants, are to be ſeen on our Shores.

We have likewiſe great Numbers of Sponges on all our Coaſts, which have been thrown up by the Sea.

The

The large ones are ſo coarſe, as to be good for nothing; the ſmall ones are very fine. I make no doubt but very valuable ones might be found, if our Sea was well ſearched by theſe People, who are very good Divers.

Though I could add a great deal to what I have ſaid of the Natural Hiſtory of *Minorca*, yet as I ſet out with an Intention of confining myſelf to ſuch Objects as were either curious, or uſeful, I have kept pretty cloſe within the Limits of my Plan; yet not ſo ſcrupulouſly, as to deny myſelf the alluring Pleaſure of ſallying into occaſional Trifles, as they occurred to my Imagination; a Liberty which would not fail of a ſevere Cenſure in a regular Work, intended for the public View; but which I hope may be very pardonable in a familiar Intercourſe between Friends.

Neither have I any great Reaſon to be ſatisfied with the Method I have obſerved in ranging the Contents of this and my three former Letters; but the friendly Latitude you have indulged to me, and your partial Commendation of what you have received, have proved I fear but weak Incentives to an indolent Creature, ever fond of diſpatching Things with as much Eaſe to himſelf as poſſible. But I am come to the End of my Paper, and muſt now conclude, with aſſuring you, that

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER XV.

SIR, MINORCA, 26 *March*, 1742.

THE Inhabitants of this Iſland, who were ſo juſtly famous in Antiquity, for their Dexterity at the Sling, and their Bravery in War, are now ſunk into a ſhameful Degeneracy and Indolence. Their antient Freedom has been long loſt, and the very Spirit of Liberty ſeems at preſent to have no Exiſtence among them, and their Courage is vaniſhed with it; as if an enſlaved People were of Opinion, they had nothing left that was worth fighting for; and I have often thought, that the Genius of the *Roman*-Catholick Religion was in itſelf an Enemy to Induſtry. The Multitude of *Faineants*, that are maintained by the People, in a voluptuous Indolence, ſet a dangerous Example to the Inhabitants of any Country. The great Number of Holy-Days which they are obliged to obſerve, indiſpoſe them to Labour; and the Diverſions which are ſo laudable on thoſe Feſtivals, though it is ſinful to exerciſe an honeſt Calling, for the Support of a poor Family, make the Returns to Buſineſs irkſome, and the Workman careleſs and lazy.

On the other Hand, the Trade and Manufactures of a Proteſtant Country, are carried on with Briſkneſs and Alacrity. The People have but few Holy-Days, and are not

not very ſtrict in the Obſervation of them. The Sabbath is almoſt their only Day of Reſt; at all other Times, they think it no Diſhonour to God, to mind their Buſineſs, that they may be enabled to feed and cloath his Creatures.

It was a Maxim among the *Jews*, that he who taught not his Son a Trade, taught him to be a Thief. It is certain, that a Man who is unprovided of the Means of getting his Bread by honeſt Labour, lies open to every Temptation that offers itſelf, of applying the Property of his Neighbour to his own uſe.

It is equally true, that a Tradeſman, who idles away his Time, and plays himſelf into Poverty and Diſtreſs, is in little better Circumſtances than the idle Fellow, who has learned no Trade at all.

And thus the *Roman*-Catholick Religion diſpoſes its Profeſſors to Idleneſs, and conſequently to Indigence; and it is well known, that there are more poor People, in proportion, in the Popiſh Countries, than in thoſe where the Reformed Religion prevails.

There is nothing more certain, than that the *Minorquins* were a brave People while they were engaged in continual Wars with the *Moors*; and what *Tacitus* ſays of the antient *Gauls*, * *Gallos in Bellis floruiſſe, accepimus, mox ſegnities cum otio intravit, amiſ-*

* *In Vit. Agricol.*

ſa virtute, pariter ac libertate, may with equal Juſtice be applied to them: For as a long War trains an unwarlike Nation to Military Exploits, ſo a profound Peace, with a total Diſuſe of Arms, in Proceſs of Time naturally dejects the Spirits of a People, and renders them ſupine and daſtardly.

They have lived long under a hard Government, and have Spirits broke to Servitude, and Bodies inured to Labour. They are effectually ſubdued to a blind Obedience to thoſe that are ſet over them, and ſeem chearful and contented under Poverty and Oppreſſion; but their mean Natures are apt to be too much exalted by Proſperity and Power, which give them a Glimpſe of greater Happineſs than they are able to compaſs, and then they grow factious and malecontent.

They are naturally contentious, and carry ſmall Quarrels to a great Height, entailing bitter Enmities on their Poſterity; and as theſe often proceed from ſlight Provocations, it ſometimes happens, that theſe Animoſities ſubſiſt between Families, long after the Differences which occaſioned them are forgot.

They are ſo ſuſpicious of one another, that they think no Man can be in the Poſſeſſion of Power, without uſing it to the Prejudice of his Neighbour; and therefore it is, that, though they pay a World of Reſpect to Perſons in Office, they ever attend upon their Behaviour with a watchful and a jealous Eye.

Theſe

Theſe People make but few Improvements, adhering with great Strictneſs to the Cuſtoms of their Forefathers, from which they ſeldom deviate in any Thing.

They pay their Taxes chearfully; are extremely temperate in their Diet, eating but little Fleſh, with great Quantities of Vegetables and Spices, and a great deal of Bread.

Garlick and Onions are ſeldom omitted in their Cookery, which is very offenſive and ſordid on our firſt Acquaintance with it.

Their ordinary Drink is Water; and a Dram of *Aguardiente*, to crown the whole, turns their Meal into a Feaſt.

A little foul Wine they drink at the Vintage, and ſuch as turns ſour upon their Hands; the reſt goes to the *Engliſh*. *Sic vos non vobis mellificatis apes!*

Notwithſtanding the Purity of their Air, and the Lightneſs of their Diet, they want much of the Briſkneſs and Vivacity of the *French*; nor does their Wine exalt them above the uſual Level: And indeed it cannot be ſaid to exhilarate the Spirits, like that of the Countries all about them, eſpecially *France*; ſo that if they were to drink *French* Wine, and the *Frenchmen* theirs, they would both be better Company by the Exchange.

Though there are Schools in the Convents for the Inſtruction of Youth, yet the little they get there is ſoon loſt again: And it may be truly ſaid, the Learning of theſe Seminaries conſiſts in little more than the Acquiſition

of the *Latin* Tongue by Rote, without any Initiation into the Rudiments of the Sciences, which are here unknown, few having attained even a ſlight ſmattering of the Mathematics, or being well acquainted with the common Rules of Arithmetic.

The very Clergy, among whom Learning uſually makes ſome Stand, before it utterly forſakes a Country, are pitifully ignorant and ſtupid, and have nothing to preſerve them from Contempt, but the exceſſive Bigotry of the People.

There is ſcarce a Woman in the Country that writes or reads, which does not proceed from their Want of Capacity, but is the Conſequence of the jealous Nature of the Men, who are not willing to furniſh them with the Means of intriguing, to which the Heat of the Climate does not a little incline them, in which however they are extreamly cautious and ſecret.

Their Lovers are very aſſiduous to gain their Affections, expoſing themſelves whole Nights under a Window; and, as *Shakeſpear* expreſſes it, *cooling the Air with Sighs*; and he is like to be moſt favoured, who gets a ſwingeing Cold, or breaks a Limb in theſe nocturnal Adventures. For the Ladies are well apprized, that the more Rigour they treat their Lover withal, the better is their Uſage likely to be after Marriage.

But this Obſequiouſneſs in the Lover is generally of ſhort Duration; and the Marriage Ceremony

Ceremony is ſcarcely over, when the Huſband throws off the Maſk, and early exerts the Tyrant; whilſt the poor Spouſe inſenſibly ſinks into a contemptible Houſhold Drudge for Life.

The Houſewifery of theſe Females lies in a ſmall Compaſs: They ſpin their Wool and Flax, of which their ordinary Dreſs principally conſiſts; make and mend the Linen of the Family, and ſome of them weave a little Lace, for their own Wear, on extraordinary Occaſions.

I did not intend the *Cavaliers*, when I mentioned the poor Fare of theſe Iſlanders: They live well in their Way, but are naturally abſtemious and ſober; ſome of them never drinking any Wine, though they all have it in their Houſes.

They ſeldom make Entertainments, and are no great Viſitors, preferring a Life of domeſtic Quiet and Retirement; and as this Privacy is ſuitable to the Oeconomy they are under a Neceſſity of obſerving, it is likewiſe more agreeable to their Diſpoſition, as it favours their natural Taciturnity, and enables them to keep their Wives under a more conſtant Obſervation.

The Prieſts live well, and drink Wine freely, taking care to be well provided with the beſt of the Growth of the Iſland. They make no Scruple to indulge themſelves in the Converſation of the other Sex, and have every Opportunity they can wiſh for, in an unſuſ-

pected Access to the Houses of all their Neighbours. And yet they are much more upon their Guard, to avoid Scandal, and preserve their Character, than the Monks are; whose Lives are such, as, our History informs us, first opened the Eyes of our Countrymen, and made Way for the Reformation.

There is no Degree of Superstition into which these People have not been led. They pay large Contributions towards praying the Souls out of Purgatory; and many Times a devout Person gives a Hog, a Sheep, and even a Fowl, to be sold by Auction, and the Money applied to this pious Use.

The Priests and Fryars entertain them on Holy-Days with Spectacles, and sometimes with Comedies; making all the publick Diversions subservient to their Interests.

During the Carnival, the Ladies amuse themselves in throwing Oranges at their Lovers; and he who has received one of these on his Eye, or has a Tooth beat out by it, is convinced, from that Moment, that he is a high Favourite with the Fair-One, who has done him so much Honour. Sometimes a good Handful of Flour is thrown full in one's Eyes, which gives the utmost Satisfaction, and is a Favour that is quickly followed by others of a less trifling Nature.

The Carnival is a Season of outrageous Mirth and Jollity; both Men and Women allowing themselves a full Swing of Freedom, intermixed, however, with the Superstitions and

and Ceremonies of their Religion. And we well know, that the Holy-Days of the antient *Romans* were, like theſe Carnivals, a Mixture of Devotion and Debauchery.

All Day, Maſſes, Feaſting, and Proceſſions; all Night, hurrying from one Church to another; Balls, Maſkings, and Intrigues.

This Time of Feſtivity is ſacred to Pleaſure, and it is ſinful to exerciſe their Calling, until *Lent* arrives, with the two Curſes of theſe People, Abſtinence and Labour, in its Train.

Their Races are of ſeveral Kinds; Aſſes contend with Aſſes, Men with Men; and it is not unuſual for a conſiderable Number of *Spaniards*, of every Degree, to mount their Horſes, Mules and Aſſes, at the End of a Street (and theſe are generally narrow enough) ſome with Bridles, Saddles, and Furniture, others bare-backed; and ſtarting all together, whip, ſpur, kick, drive, and ſhout, to the other End; where you may obſerve as much Earneſtneſs and Anxiety in the Riders, and as much ſincere Joy and Happineſs in the Spectators, as ever you ſaw at the fineſt Match at *Newmarket*.

Running at the Ring is now much diſuſed here, and even a Bull-baiting is a Rarity. I ſaw one; but the Bull wanted Spirit, though the Dogs were very contemptible Aſſailants; ſo that I was very little pleaſed until it was over.

During the Carnival, and all Winter long, they dance in their Houſes; in Summer this Diverſion

Diverſion is taken in the Street, by Torch-Light. Their Muſick is the *Guittar*, on which moſt of the Men and Women play.

They dance in Couples, the Man exerting his Strength and Activity, and the Woman moving ſlow, and looking all the Time on the Ground. And though the Performance be never ſo wretched, the Spectators never fail to cry out, *Long live the Dancers!* which they return with, *Long live the Lookers-on!* Sometimes the Man is deſired to *ſay ſomething to his Partner*, on which the Compliment is always this Queſtion, *What would you have me ſay to her, but that ſhe has the Face of a Roſe?*

They have but few Tunes, and theſe are dull too; though not altogether unſuitable to the Meaſure of the Lady, whoſe Looks are not in the leaſt affected by the Diverſion; and I have often thought their Countenances had more of Solemnity and Mortification on theſe Occaſions, than in the moſt ſerious Exerciſes of their Religion, that we Hereticks are allowed to be witneſs to.

It is obſervable that they ſeldom practiſe thoſe Diverſions and Exerciſes in which the more warlike People of *Europe* delight. Their Sling is at preſent in little Uſe, except among the Shepherds, who are dextrous enough, in hitting a refractory Sheep, or Goat, at a great Diſtance.

Their hunting of Rabbets, with their Dogs, in the Woods, or taking them by Means

Means of Ferrets, when they have refuged themſelves in the Crannies of the Rocks, cannot ſo properly be called a Diverſion, ſince the Motive is the Gain they make of their Fleſh.

The few that ſhoot, follow it as a Trade, for which they are very well paid; and they certainly deſerve to be well paid, for there are few better Markſmen in the World, as they rarely miſs above once in fifteen or ſixteen Times; if it happens any oftener, they think they are bewitched.

The Governor and the Commanding-Officers of the Regiments, have each one of theſe Fellows, under the Title of *Caſſador*. He has no fixed Salary, but is paid for his Game, as he brings it in, at a regulated Price.

The Officers and the *Spaniſh Cavaliers* are under no Reſtraint, but may ſhoot Partridges from the Middle of *Auguſt*, when the young ones are able to fly, to the middle of *February*, when they begin to pair, and lay their Eggs.

As for Birds of Paſſage, they are lawful Prey at all Times, and few Countries have them in greater Abundance.

The meaner Sort are diſarmed all over the Iſland, which was done on very good Grounds many Years ago; and this has been attended with one incidental Advantage, that it has prevented the Deſtruction of the Game. The Gentlemen are permitted to wear Swords, and uſe Fire-Arms, as well for the Security

of

of their Houſes, as for their Diverſion in the Field.

The Pointers of this Iſland have long been famous, They have good Noſes, and are extreamly ſtaunch: The latter Quality may be owing in a great Meaſure to the rigorous Diſcipline of the *Caſſador* that teaches them, which is ſavagely cruel and brutal.

Theſe Dogs are obſerved to want Speed, when they are ſent into *England*, and therefore the Strain is uſually croſſed with our Spaniels; and this Mixture produces a Race of as good Pointers as any in *Europe*.

Theſe Iſlanders are of a ſwarthy Complexion, more particularly the labouring Men, who are much expoſed to the Sun: But many of the Women and Children are fair, having for the moſt Part regular Features, black Eyes and Hair, and very good Teeth.

When a Child happens to have grey Eyes, and fair, or red Hair, which ſometimes is the Caſe, the Huſband ſhrugs up his Shoulders, and ſuſpects his Spouſe of Infidelity; and it is certain the Women have a World of Vivacity, and love Money, which are powerful Incentives to an illicit Correſpondence with the Officers of the Troops.

The Dreſs of the lower Rank of the Men conſiſts of a looſe ſhort Coat, or Jacket, a Waiſtcoat, with a red worſted Girdle, going many Times round the Body, or a broad Leather Belt; a coarſe Shirt, a coloured Handkerchief about their Necks, a red worſted

ſted Cap, a Pair of Breeches, reaching down almoſt to the Ankles, coarſe Stockings, broad flat Shoes, with little or no Heel, made of white Leather, a flapped Hat and a Cloak.

The better Sort wear Wigs, cocked Hats. and Swords, and have their Cloaths cut in our Faſhion, but generally black. When they are in Mourning, they draw a Caſe or Sheath of black Cloth over the Scabbard of their Sword, and this they think a ſufficient Diſtinction.

The Women's common Dreſs is a cloſe Waiſtcoat of black Stuff, opening wide at the Neck, and cloſe buttoned at the Wriſt, where the End of the Shift-Sleeve is commonly turned up. A Petticoat of coloured Stuff, or printed Linen, comes over this, and is tied at the Waiſt.

The Petticoat is full-gathered to make them ſeem large about the Hips, which they think becoming, and is made ſo ſhort, as ſeldom to reach below the Middle of the Leg.

Their Stockings are of Worſted, red, blue, or green, with Clocks of other Colours; and their white Shoes have high Heels, and red Tops, and are broad at the Toes, where they are pinked full of ſmall Holes, which make them eaſy and cool, and are beſides in their Opinion ornamental.

About the Head they wear a *Robazilla*, of white or printed Linen, or of Silk, which is pinned cloſe under the Chin, and falls about

bout the Shoulders; and when it is blown open by the Wind, it ſhows the Neck, which has no other Covering, to great Advantage.

In putting on the *Robazilla*, they are ever careful to draw it cloſe under the Chin, by which Contrivance their Cheeks are puffed out, which theſe meagre Ladies are very vain of; Plumpneſs being valued by them, as moſt Things are apt to be, becauſe it is ſo rarely ſeen among them.

They are ever perfectly ſtraight and well-ſhaped, for they wear no Stays; thoſe curſed Machines, which are ſuch a Confinement to the Body, under the Notion of directing it in its Growth, ſerving only to warp and deform it.

The Dreſs of State is the black Veil, which turns over the Head from the Waiſt, but never wholly hides the Face.

Their Hair is gathered behind, and ſometimes plaited, but more generally bound about with a coloured Ribband, and reaching down almoſt to their Heels, where it ends in a ſmall Curl. In their high Dreſs they ſeldom go without a Fan in one Hand, and a *Roſario* in the other.

The Opportunities theſe Females have of appearing in their Gaiety, are but few, and their Time is employed in domeſtick Affairs; ſo that their beſt Cloaths deſcend to the third or fourth Generation, as the Faſhion does not vary.

They

They marry at thirteen or fourteen Years of Age, and ſometimes earlier, and begin to break by the Time they are four or five and twenty.

When a Woman is ſaluted, ſhe never curteſies, but gently bows the Head. It is the higheſt Affront to offer to kiſs them, or even to touch their Hand, before Witneſſes; and their uſual Saying on ſuch Occaſion is, *Mira, y no tocas*; Look at me, but touch me not.

The very pooreſt of theſe People eat good brown Bread, made of Wheat, which is their principal Nouriſhment; and lie in tolerable Beds, the Sheets of which they frequently ſhift; ſo that we are not ſhocked here with that ſqualid Poverty and Wretchedneſs, which diſplay themſelves in the Houſes of the Poor in other Countries, and even in *England*, remote from the Capital.

They take a Pride in keeping their Houſe and Utenſils clean; though we are apt to tax them with Filthineſs, on Account of the noiſome Smells that ſtrike the Senſe, when we enter their Dwellings, which really are not to be imputed to a Want of Cleanlineſs in the Women, but the naſty Oil they burn in their Lamps, and the Garlick they uſe in their Cookery.

The Furniture of the Kitchen is moſtly of Earthen Ware, few having a Copper-Kettle, or Pewter-Diſh in their Poſſeſſion. The *Ollas*, or Pots in which they ſtew their Victuals, though they are very light and thin, yet bear the Fire well. They

They have no Jacks, and bake their Meat oftner than they roaſt it. They generally put Almonds into the Bellies of their Pigs, Geeſe, and Turkeys; but ſuch Diſhes rarely make their Appearance, except at Chriſtenings or Weddings.

A Meſs of Oil, Water, and Bread, with Pepper and Garlick ſtewed together, often dines the whole Family; and their favourite Diſh is an *Olla*, which is at preſent well known in the moſt elegant of the *London* Taverns.

Theſe People riſe early, breakfaſt on a Piece of Bread, and a Bunch of Grapes, or Raiſins, according to the Seaſon, take a Draught of Water, and ſo to work.

They dine at Noon, ſup betimes, ſit ſome Hours at the Door in Summer, or by the Fire in Winter, ſmoak a good many Pipes, and ſo to Bed.

They are indeed great Smoakers univerſally, and not very nice, either in their Tobacco, or their Pipes; the latter ſerving as long has they can be kept from Accidents.

Theſe Pipes conſiſt of a Bole (which they import) made of Clay, into which they fix a Reed, and have a Mouth-piece of Horn, and ſometimes of Silver, at the other End.

Their Fuel is altogether Wood, either the Trunks and Branches of Trees, or their Roots; of which the Olive is by much the moſt chearful and durable. It is delivered in to the Buyer at Tree-pence or Four-pence the *Quintal*. This

This Iſland was formerly much more populous than it is at preſent, vaſt Numbers of its Inhabitants having been killed, or carried away into Captivity by the *Moors*.

Some Share they alſo had in planting the *American* Colonies; and then if we compute the Numbers that are put into Convents, and lead a life of Celibacy; the Ravage made by the Small-Pox every now and then, and the Practice of the Women in ſuckling their Children for two Years together, that they may not be ſtarved by a numerous Progeny: I ſay, if we revolve theſe Circumſtances, and add, that *Minorca* is a barren Country, and receives no Reinforcement of People from abroad, we are not to wonder, if, in its preſent Condition, the Number of its Inhabitants is vaſtly diminiſhed from what its has been.

And this may ſerve to explain what I have had Occaſion to ſay in the Courſe of this Correſpondence, of the Reſiſtance which King *Alphonſo* met with from the *Moors*, when he atchieved the Conqueſt of the Iſland.

The *Moors* indeed, beſides the Numbers of their Countrymen that reſorted to theſe Iſlands from various Motives, had another Advantage over the *Chriſtians*, that beyond all others, tended moſt to the peopling of the Countries they poſſeſſed; I mean a Plurality of Wives, which will ever keep them up a numerous Race of Men.

In

In their religious Ceremonies, they differ little from the *French* and *Spaniards*; only as they are ſecluded, by their Situation, from the reſt of the World, their Notions are contracted, and their Minds more ſubject to be wrought upon and moulded by the Prieſts; by whom they are abſolutely governed, and who may be truly ſaid to be their temporal, as well as their ſpiritual Guides.

There is one Thing remarkable in their Funerals, which I cannot paſs by, without mentioning it to you.

The *Minorquins* have ſo great a Reverence for the Fryar's Habit, that it is very common for them to be carried in that Diſguiſe to the Grave.

I have ſeen an old Woman placed on a Bier, dreſſed like a *Franciſcan* Monk, and ſo conducted by the good Brothers of that Order, with ſinging, and the tinkling of the Hand-Bell, to their Church.

This Superſtition was obſerved by *Milton*, in his Travels through the *Roman*-Catholick Countries; for when he is deſcribing the *Paradiſe of Fools*, he does not forget to mention theſe,

——*Who to be ſure of Paradiſe,*
Dying, put on the Weeds of Dominick,
Or in Franciſcan *think to paſs diſguis'd.*
Paradiſe Loſt, l. 3.

The

The Funeral Proceſſion ends at the Church, and there the Body is ſet down before the High Altar, and the Company is diſmiſſed.

At Night it is thrown into the Vault, with ſome Lime; and as theſe temporary Repoſitories come by Degrees to be filled, the Bones are occaſionally taken out, and interred in Places ſet apart in every Town for that Purpoſe.

The *Minorquins* have a Cuſtom, that when a Murder has been committed in the Country, they ſet up a Croſs in the Place; and to their Shame, we ſee a great Number of theſe Croſſes, as we ramble about the Iſland. But if this horrid Crime has been perpetrated within Doors, the Houſe is forthwith pulled down, and the Foundation ſowed with Salt. This Cuſtom is of great Antiquity; not only the Habitations of particular Offenders againſt the Laws, were treated in this manner, but whole Cities were beat down, and ſowed with Salt *.

The greateſt Malefactors might heretofore eſcape the Puniſhment due to their Crimes, by flying to the Churches for Protection; and we ſee the *Altare Privilegiatum* in moſt of them to this Day; though our Governors make no Scruple of withdrawing them at preſent from their Sanctuary, which is agreeable to the old Law; *If a Man come preſumptuouſly upon his Neighbour, to ſlay him with*

* Judges ix. 45.

Guile;

Guile; thou ſhalt take him from mine Altar, that he may die †.

If the Natives of *Minorca* have been heretofore hurried by their Jealouſy into Acts of Cruelty and Violence, it is but juſt to declare, that ſince they have been better acquainted with the *Engliſh*, they have relaxed a good deal of their antient Severity to their Wives, and live in good *Underſtanding* with us.

They are generally ſober, in which they are not followed by our Soldiers, nor indeed by our Sailors, when we have a Squadron of Men of War in the Harbour.

When a *Spaniard* broaches a Butt of Wine, he has two Soldiers ſent him by the Commanding-Officer, to ſee that no Diſorders are committed in the *Bota-freſca* Houſe, and a green Buſh is hung out at the Door.

Hither the Soldiers repair, to regale themſelves, and ſuch of the Seamen as are on Shore at the Time, do the ſame. In theſe Temples of *Bacchus*, no Bounds are ſet to their Debauches, and ſuch a Quantity of Wine is daily ſwallowed down, as would ſtagger Credulity itſelf to be told of it.

Yet I ſpeak it from good Authority, that on *Chriſtmas* Day, 1741, there were drunk out, by the Soldiers and Sailors, at *St. Philip*'s, at theſe Houſes, no leſs than Eight hundred and Sixty-four Gallons of Wine.

Another Cuſtom of theſe Iſlanders occurs to my Memory. All the Sea-faring Men, that

† Exod. xxi. 14.

that have Wives, concert with them, and with their Friends, before they enter on their Voyage, ſome Signal that they intend ſhall diſtinguiſh their Bark at her Return. As ſoon as the Veſſel with the well-known Signal draws near the Shore, the Friends attend the Lady, with the News of her Huſband's Return, and then haſten to the Port, to welcome their Friend, and accompany him to his Houſe. He finds his Spouſe ſitting at the Door, occupied in her domeſtic Duties, who takes no manner of Notice of him. Here the Friends take their Leave, and the Mariner enters his Dwelling, and is ſoon followed by his Wife, and then the Door is ſhut. This is all that appears of the Ceremony. There is great Reaſon to think that this Cuſtom had its Foundation in the Jealouſy of the *Minorquins*. The Careſſes of a young Couple, on their firſt Interview, after a tedious Separation, might occaſion ſome libidinous Emotions in a People ſtrongly addicted to Venery; all which are prevented by this reſerved Behaviour.

In the Time of the Carnival, when there is Dancing at half the Houſes in Town, it is common with us to join in their Diverſion; and we are ever treated with the utmoſt Courteſy and Diſtinction. We are ſeated in the upper Part of the Room, preſented with Wine and Sweetmeats, and the Woman of the Houſe takes us out to dance. On our Part, we never fail to behave to them

them, eſpecially the Women, with the niceſt Decorum, a Conduct highly neceſſary to all who would avoid giving Offence to the Delicacy of the *Minorquins*.

And now I am not without Hopes that I have kept my Word, and made you acquainted with the Natives of the Iſland of *Minorca*; but it may ſtill be a Queſtion whether you are obliged to me for the Trouble I have taken.

Allow me however to tell you, that tho' there are many Nations in *Europe*, whoſe Character is more intereſting, whoſe Affairs are more important, and whoſe Virtues are more conſpicuous; I am far from regretting the Time I have ſpent, in withdrawing the Veil, that has ſo long hid thoſe Iſlanders from the Obſervation of their Neighbours, and continued them, though they make a Part of our *Britiſh* Dominions, as utter Strangers to the good People of *England*, as the Hunters of *Æthiopia*, or the Artificers of *Japan*.

We reckon the *Minorquins* to be Fifteen Thouſand Males, whereof one Fifth, or Three Thouſand, are of a proper Age for fighting Men, and Twelve Thouſand Females; in all Twenty Seven Thouſand Souls.

I cannot conclude your preſent Trouble, without mentioning, that there are not in Nature, according to Sir *William Petty*'s Calculations, any more than One in Five Hundred,

dred, that are ſo far crippled, or deformed, as not to be in a Condition to get their Bread.

In *Minorca* this is very ſenſible, for there are ſo few that labour under this Incapacity, that I dare ſay, we have ſcarcely thirty Perſons in the Iſland, who have not the full Enjoyment of their Strength of Body, and Faculties of Mind, ſo far as to get their Bread in an honeſt Induſtry, without depending on the Benevolence of others for their Support.

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

LETTER XVI.

SIR, MINORCA, 4 *April*, 1742.

THE Method I laid down on my undertaking this Taſk, requires that I ſhould give you ſome Idea of the *Antiquities* that are obſervable in this Iſland, which naturally range themſelves under the three following Heads. I. Such as are the Remains of the earlieſt Times. II. Thoſe that carry evident Marks of a *Roman* Original; and, III. Such as are only to be aſcribed to the *Moors*.

Of theſe, The firſt Place is certainly due to what the Natives call *Altars de ces Gentils* (the *Altars of the Gentiles*), and we *Heathen-Altars*.

To enable you to form a right Judgment of theſe Works, I ſhall firſt deſcribe a remarkable one, which I lately viſited, and which ſtands about two Miles to the Eaſtward of *Alaior*, and then acquaint you with my Thoughts on the Subject.

It is ſeated on an Eminence, and is encloſed by a Fence of large flat Stones, ſet on their Ends cloſe together, and forming a circular Plan of about 200 Yards Diameter.

In the Center of this Encloſure is a huge Maſs of great rough Stones piled on each other, without Mortar, in the Figure of a Cone, being about 30 Yards in Diameter, and very near as many in Height.

It has a Cavity at the Baſe, the Entrance of which is to the South, and eaſily admits of a Man to enter it, though not without ſtooping; but as I was aſſured before-hand, that nothing curious was to be diſcovered there, I did not provide myſelf with Lights to enable me to view it.

There is a Way near three Feet broad, contrived on the Outſide of the Pile, by which we aſcend with a great deal of Eaſe in a ſpiral Line to the Top, where was a flat Area, capable of receiving our whole Company, being Six in Number, at the ſame Time. From hence we had a noble Proſpect of

of the Sea to the Southward, and an extenſive View over the Country, which Way ſoever we turned ourſelves.

Within the Encloſure, at ſome Diſtance from the maſſy Pile I have juſt deſcribed, are two Stones, the one ſet on Edge in the Ground, and the other placed horizontally, and reſting on the upper Edge of the firſt.

I meaſured the upper Stone, and found it to be ſixteen Feet long, ſeven broad, and twenty Inches thick: The Dimenſions of the other differed but little from this, I mean the Breadth and Thickneſs; for I could not come to meaſure the Height, as great Part of it was buried in the Earth.

They were both corroded by the Salts, with which the Air of this Country is impregnated, into a good deal of Irregularity, and no Traces of the Chiſſel remained on either, to give me Room to think that they had ever had any Inſcription, or other Sculpture, beſtowed on them.

From the Deſcription I have given you, I know you will conclude, that theſe two Stones together compoſe what was properly the *Heathen-Altar*, to which Uſe their Figure and Situation were perfectly well adapted.

The flat Stone was proper for offering the Sacrifice on, only, as it ſtood between eleven and twelve Feet above the Level of the Ground, it was of an inconvenient Height for the Prieſt to attend on the Circumſtances

of the holy Ceremony: Wherefore I ſuppoſe he made uſe Uſe of ſomething to exalt himſelf on, as a Ladder, Scaffold, or the like; for the regular Poſition of the Stones at the Foot of the great Stone that ſupports the Altar, evinces that Part to have remained as it was at firſt finiſhed.

You may then reaſonably aſk, to what Purpoſe were thoſe ſtupendous Piles of great Stones raiſed, and why are they conſtantly found in the Neighbourhood of the *Altars?*

Diodorus Siculus informs us, that the *Balearians* heaped Stones over the Graves of their Dead: But as we have no great Number of theſe Monuments in the Iſland, I ſuppoſe we are to underſtand, that this Honour was done to the Remains of ſome eminent Perſonages among the Natives, and not that they were ever the common Burying Places; for his Words plainly ſignify, that the Bodies were firſt interred, and the Stones piled up afterwards. So that I make no Doubt, but if theſe Places were opened, and carefully ſearched, we ſhould find human Bones in all of them, as they are occaſionally diſcovered in the *Barrows* all over *England.*

And thus, theſe Heaps ſerved as a Kind of Hiſtories, before Letters were invented, to perpetuate the Memory of eminent Perſons; and the Songs of the People, that were tranſmitted from Father to Son, may be conſidered as ſo many Comments on them.

But

But though I think it is plain, that theſe Piles were erected as Monuments, over the Graves of ſuch of their Countrymen, as the ancient Inhabitants of *Minorca* were deſirous of diſtinguiſhing, on Account of the Services they had rendered to the Publick; yet it is obvious, from ſeveral Circumſtances, that they had a ſecondary View in the Labour and Expence which they beſtowed on them.

They are ever ſeated on an Eminence, and ſo diſperſed, that from each of them others are diſcerned at proper Diſtances throughout the Country; from whence I have been apt to ſuſpect, that theſe Repoſitories of the illuſtrious Dead were made to contribute to the Safety and Preſervation of the Living, and that they were uſed by the old Inhabitants as *Speculæ*, or *Watch-Mounts*, to diſcover the Approaches of an Enemy at a Diſtance, and by proper Signals to warn the Natives of their impending Danger; by which means they had Leiſure to conſider, whether they were ſtrong enough to encounter the Invader in the Field, or to provide for their Safety by retiring with their Families into the *Criptæ*, or Caves, cut every where in the ſolid Rock, in great Numbers, all over the Iſland.

One Circumſtance gives Force to this Opinion; the Natives at this Day calling them *Athalais*, a Name that can only belong to them, on Account of their ſerving as *Speculæ*.

If you reflect on the Situation of this Iſland, and the different Nations whoſe Yoke it bore at different Periods of Time, you will make no Difficulty to allow, that the Inhabitants lived in continual Terrors and Alarms; and what was more natural for a People ſo expoſed, who were jealous of their Liberty from having been often conquered, and who lived among enterprizing Neighbours (who received no Law but from their Ambition) than to think of the moſt probable Means of gaining Time to deliberate how they were to repulſe, or how they were to avoid the Attacks to which they were continually expoſed?

This was the Caſe of the old Inhabitants of *Minorca*, and theſe Structures were of the utmoſt Advantage to them, in propagating the Alarm, on every Occaſion, all over the inland Parts of the Country.

The commodious Way by which they were ſo eaſily aſcended on the Out-ſide, is a ſtrong Argument in Favour of this Opinion, and the Cavity below might ſerve to ſhelter the Perſons who were deſtined to look out, on every ſudden Change of Weather to which this Climate is ſubject.

There was a great deal of Propriety in placing the *Altars* near theſe *Speculæ*, as I take the Liberty to call them; for the holy Perſons who were ſet apart for appeaſing the Wrath of the offended Deity by Sacrifices and Oblations, could pitch upon no Spot ſo

ſuitable

ſuitable to their Purpoſe as that from whence their Danger was diſcovered; and their Incenſe was wafted to Heaven, with purer Vows, and their Prayers preferred with unuſual Fervency, whilſt the Enemy was in Sight.

As I ſuppoſe the whole Area to have been ſet apart for religious Uſes, the Fence of upright Stones ſerved to ſecure it from the unhallowed Tread of Man and Beaſt.

Having ſatisfied myſelf, at leaſt, however it may fare with you, concerning the Deſign of erecting theſe Monuments of Antiquity, I now proceed to give you the beſt Lights I am capable of furniſhing, to enable you to judge who were their Founders.

In the early Ages of the World, Religion was incumbered with but few Ceremonies; Sacrifices were offered to the Divinity of the moſt precious Things that were to be had on the Place, to deprecate his Wrath, and implore his Protection.

The *Altars* were rude and unadorned, being only compoſed of ſuch Materials as were next at Hand, whether Earth or Stone, and were erected on a riſing Ground.

The *Celtick* Druids erected vaſt Numbers of theſe *Altars* wherever they came, and many of them are ſtill ſubſiſting in the Highlands of *Scotland*, in *Ireland*, and in the Iſland of *Angleſey*.

Mr. *Rowlands* * is ſo particular in the Ac-

* *Mona Antiqua Reſtaurata*, Sect. VII. p. 45, 46, 47.

count he gives of theſe laſt (which he calls *Crom-lech*) that I can make no Doubt, but theſe of ours are indebted for their Original to the ſame Nation, though it is probable they are of ſtill greater Antiquity, than thoſe he ſpeaks of, as the *Celts* had overſpread theſe Iſlands long before they reached that remote Part of *Britain*, and yet he ſeems to refer this laſt to the third or fourth Generation after *Noah*.

What the ſame Author ſays * of the leſſer *Carnedde*, in the Iſle of *Angleſey*, agrees ſo well in the deſcriptive Part with what I have told you of the conical Heaps of Stone, that I ſhall chuſe to refer you to his learned Book, rather than run my Letter to an unneceſſary Length, by tranſcribing from thence what you can ſo readily come at.

As to what Mr. *Rowlands* ſays of the greater *Carnedde*, I ſhall leave it to you to judge of it as you pleaſe; only I muſt put you in Mind that we have none of the ſtanding Pillars near them in this Iſland, ſo far as I have been able to learn. And thus much of the *Heathen Altars*.

On looking diligently about me not long ago, in the Neighbourhood of one of theſe *Heathen Altars*, I chanced to find an *Earthen Bead*, of near an Inch in Length, with a Hole through it, and three Quarters of an Inch in Diameter: It is rude in its Make, and of a yellowiſh Clay, that does not ap-

* *Mona Antiqua Reſtaurata*, Sect. VII. p. 48, &c.

pear

pear ever to have been glazed; and was probably an *Amulet* of the *Celtick* Druids, as one is apt to ſuſpect, not only on Account of the Place in which I diſcovered it, but its near Reſemblance to the Bodies deſcribed under that Name by Mr. *Lhwyd* in the Additions to *Cambden*, and by Mr. *Morton*, in his Hiſtory of *Northamptonſhire*, Chap. 10.

I have already had Occaſion to take Notice of the great Numbers of *Caves* (*Covas*) that are to be found in *Minorca*, which are either ſuch as are natural, as *Cova Perella*, (deſcribed in my Letter of 28 *March* 1741) and ſeveral others; or II. Such as have been made by the Waves of the Sea in tempeſtuous Weather, and are very frequent on the Shores of the Iſland; or III. Such as were ſcooped out of the ſolid Rock, by the Labour of the Natives, in very remote Times.

Theſe laſt are by far the moſt numerous, and are capable of containing all the Inhabitants of the Country upon Occaſion: To theſe therefore I ſhall confine what I have to ſay on this Subject, the other Kinds not coming regularly to be conſidered in this Place, as they do not make a Part of the Antiquities of *Minorca*.

Kircher, in his *Mundus ſubterraneus*, acquaints us, that ſeveral *Malteſe* Families did in his Time inhabit the *Criptæ* in the Rocks of that Iſland; and affirms the ſame Thing of the *Italians* in the Neighbourhood of *Viterbo*, in *Etruria*; and, Dr. *Shaw* ſays,

many of the *Moors* of *Barbary* live in *Mattamores.*

That theſe *Caves* of ours differ little from the ſubterraneous Habitations mentioned by thoſe learned Writers, can admit of no Diſpute; wherefore I make no Difficulty to conclude, that they were originally contrived with the ſame Deſign, and applied for many Ages to the ſame Uſe, as ſome of them are ſtill actually inhabited by the pooreſt of theſe People.

When in Proceſs of Time the *Minorquins* were civilized by the polite Nations that had conquered them, it is probable, that in Imitation of their Maſters, they built them convenient Houſes, calculated in the beſt manner to ſhelter them from the Inclemencies of the Weather.

But I do not conceive that the Uſe of the *Caves* ceaſed on the Erection of Houſes; for there is Room to imagine, they ſerved the Natives as a Retreat for a long Time after, and a Place of Security for their Women and Children, their Cattle, and the moſt precious of their Moveables, on any extraordinary Alarm, where they were ſafely concealed until the Danger was over.

And we learn from *Dameto*'s Hiſtory of the *Balearick* Kingdom, that the *Moors*, a little before their final Expulſion from *Majorca*, not only drew vaſt Advantage from them in this Kind, but were enabled to make a noble Defence againſt the victorious Arms

of

of the Conqueror, and to cut off great Numbers of his Men, before they could be totally reduced.

Frequent is the Mention of *Caves* in the Sacred Writings, which were put to this twofold Uſe, and ſerved the People for Places of Retreat in the Hour of Danger, as well as Numbers of them were their ordinary Habitations; and I am apt to think there is ſcarcely a Country in the World, where they are practicable, that has not ſome of them remaining at this Day; a Conſideration that will excuſe my paſſing to the next General Head of Antiquities, *viz.* Such as carry evident Marks of a *Roman* Original.

It may ſeem a little odd at firſt, that we find no Traces of a *Roman* Road in this Iſland, though it continued in Subjection to that People from the Conqueſt of *Quintus Cecilius Metellus*, 121 Years before the Birth of *Chriſt*, to the Year 421, of the *Chriſtian Æra*, when it was ſubdued by the *Vandals* under their King *Gunderick*.

The *Balearick* Navy that was defeated by *Metellus*, was ſo conſiderable, according to *L. Florus*, *lib.* iii. *cap.* 8. that in Hopes of Booty, it ventured to attack that of the *Romans*, and ruſhed on them with ſuch a Shower of Stones, diſcharged from Slings, as at firſt greatly terrified the Enemy: But being at length overpowered, they were obliged to retire, and yield the Victory to *Metellus*, who was honoured with a Triumph, and the Surname

name of *Balearicus*, for this important Service.

It is probable, that the *Romans* took Care to ſecure their Conqueſt, by keeping up a Power at Sea that was more than ſufficient to cope with any of their Rivals in the *Mediterranean*.

What I mean by all this, is to let you underſtand what I take to be the Reaſon why the *Romans* made no Military Ways, for an eaſy Communication between their Towns of *Ciudadella* and *Mahon*.

Whilſt they were Maſters at Sea, their Fleet eaſily tranſported their Troops on every Exigence from one Place to another; and in the Summer Time, the Seaſon for Action, the Paſſage was expeditious, and by no means dangerous.

Neither was there any Hazard in a Winter's Expedition, proportionable to that an Enemy was expoſed to, ſince the Iſlanders were acquainted with the Coaſt, and had nothing to apprehend, if they ſhould be obliged, by the Fury of ſudden Flaws and Tempeſts, to put into any of the numerous Creeks and Bays with which it abounds.

Beſides, if it was at any Time neceſſary to raiſe the Country, the Farmers were no where above four Hours eaſy March from the Sea, nor more than eight Hours from *Mahon* or *Ciudadella*, even as we may ſuppoſe the Roads to have been at that Time.

When

When in the Decline of the Empire, the *Romans* neglected their Navy, the *Vandals* made an eaſy Conqueſt of *Minorca*; and poſſibly no Iſland will ever be capable of holding out long againſt the Attacks of an Enemy that is ſuperior at Sea.

As there were no *Roman* Roads in *Minorca*, neither were there any Camps, of which the ſmalleſt *Veſtigia* have fallen under my Obſervation. And it is probable, that the Bulk of the *Roman* Soldiery were kept in the great Towns, and the Remainder diſperſed, for the Cultivation of the Earth, in the ſeveral Villages and Farms about the Country.

As to *Roman* Buildings, I do not think it poſſible to fix on any one Structure in the Iſland, and prove it to have been the Workmanſhip of that People. The Truth is, the Freeſtone of this Country, for it does not appear that they opened any Quarries of Marble here, is ſubject to be corroded by the Salts of the Air, and wants much of the Solidity that is neceſſary to enable it to ſtand ſo many Ages;

—Non lapides quoque vinci cernis ab aevo;
Non altas turres ruere, et putreſcere ſaxa?
LUCRET. l. v.

It is not likely that the *Romans* ever prepared Bricks here, as we never find the Remains of any, and we may preſume, that the old Buildings, going by Degrees to Decay, were

were pulled down, as there was Occaſion, and others built in their Place, in Conformity to the Taſte of the Age.

We may obſerve in general of the Churches, that none of them ſeem to be of Antiquity enough to have been the Temples of the *Roman* Gods; beſides, the Columns and Pilaſters, with which they are adorned, are much corrupted from the Purity of the *Roman* Architecture, and give ſufficient Teſtimony of a more modern *Saracen* Admixture, eſpecially in the Foliage of their Capitals.

Neither have we any elegant Remains of the *Roman* Sculpture to boaſt of. There is indeed an old mutilated Statue, not far from *Mahon*, of no Value, in its preſent Condition; and I make no Queſtion but there were ſeveral others ſet up by the *Romans*, while they were Maſters of the Iſland, which were afterwards broken and defaced by the barbarous Nations that ſucceeded them; the *Vandals*, *Goths*, and *Mahometans*, having conſtantly exerted a Rage againſt the Ornaments of Sculpture, as the latter made a religious Merit of deſtroying the noble Workmanſhip of the *Greek* and *Roman* Statuaries, wherever they came.

I have by me a *Lar*'s Head in *Bronze*, that was plowed up about two Years ſince in the *Termino* of *Alaior*, and appears to have been broken off at the Neck; but the Body was never found.

There

There are ſome *Roman* Inſcriptions in the Town of *Mahon*, one of which has only the firſt Line that is legible, *viz.*

Q. CORNELIO.

There is another Inſcription on a *Cippus*, that is fixed in the Wall of a modern Dwelling-Houſe, the better to preſerve it. It is all in *Roman* Capital-Letters, well cut, and is as follows:

L· FABIO· L· F·
Q· VIR·
FABVLLO·
AED· II· VIR· III·
FLAMINI· DIVOR·
AUG· R· P· MAG·
OB· MVLTA· EIVS
MERITA·

The Meaning of which I take to be this.

" The *Roman* People of *Mahon* erected " this Monument to the Memory of *Lu-* " *cius Fabius*, (the Son of *Lucius*) on Ac- " count of his great Deſerts: He was a " *Quintumvir*, and of the Tribe *Fabullus*; " alſo *Ædile*, three Times a *Duumvir*, a " Prieſt of the Gods, and *Augur*.

There are ſeveral other *Roman* Inſcriptions in the Iſland, and I viewed all that I was able to hear of; but they are ſo ſhattered, that

that it exceeded my Power to decypher any of them.

I now come to the *Urns*, and *Lamps*, ſo frequently found in this Iſland, that the Nations among whom the Cuſtom prevailed of burning their Dead, muſt have been very numerous here, and of long Continuance.

We have Room from Hiſtory to conclude, that not only the *Romans*, but the *Carthaginians* uſed *Urn-Burial*; and even the *Celtick* Druids, though perhaps not conſtantly; on which Account it would be extremely difficult to prove the Nation of the Perſons whoſe Aſhes theſe Veſſels contain, either from their Form, which has nothing unuſual in it, or the Matter of which they are made.

At the Time theſe Iſlands were annexed to the Dominions of *Rome*, it is certain the *Romans* burned their Dead, and I ſuppoſe, moſt of the *Urns* in *Minorca* were charged with the Aſhes of that People; they are generally of a well-burned Earth, of a fine florid red Colour; ſome few of them are black, but the *Lamps* are all red.

I am apt to imagine theſe *Urns* and *Lamps* were imported from the Continent, as the only Potters Clay in Uſe here, burns to a yellowiſh brown; eſpecially as I have not been able to learn that any Traces of a *Roman* Pottery have ever been diſcovered in the Iſland.

One Inducement that contributed not a little to eſtabliſh this Practice among the Antients,

tients, was the ſecuring the Remains of the Dead from the Outrage of their Enemies. Beſides, one Portion of the Body (a ſmall one indeed, and much altered in the Fire) was hereby preſerved from periſhing by Degrees in the Grave, or becoming the Food of Reptiles.

Though the *Chriſtian* Inhabitants of *Minorca* might diſcontinue *Urn-Burial*, (as the *Chriſtians* every where did) yet probably it continued in Uſe among the *Romans*, until *Chriſtianity* was fully eſtabliſhed here.

And the ſucceeding Nations have ever ſince buried the Bodies of the Dead, either in Graves cut out of the ſolid Rock, (or as the preſent Practice is) in the Vaults of their Churches.

The *Lamps* are all of the common Form. They ſometimes bear a Device in the hollow Part of the upper Side, a Fiſh, a Ram, *&c.* and ſometimes the Name of the Potter appears on the Bottom.

Both *Lamps* and *Urns* are found in the Graves, and, not unfrequently, *Lacrimatory* Veſſels, in which the Tears of the ſurviving Friends were ſuppoſed to be put.

There is a Paſſage in the 8th Verſe of the 56th *Pſalm* (*Thou telleſt my Flittings, put my Tears into thy Bottle*, &c.) which would make one believe this Practice to be of very great Antiquity.

There have been no *Urns* found in *Minorca*, but ſuch as are of Earth, very few of the

Romans

Romans having their Aſhes encloſed in Metal, which might have proved a Temptation to ſearch for them, whereby their Remains would come to be diſturbed. This Conſideration was ſo forcible with them, that they forbade the Uſe of Gold in the Rites of Burial, unleſs in particular Caſes.

Hence the Frequency of Braſs Coins taken out of the *Roman* Graves in this Country, yet I do not hear that a Gold or Silver one is ever brought this Way to Light.

And this brings me to ſpeak of the *Roman* Money that has been found in *Minorca*.

Several of the Conſular *Denarii* have been found here: and of the Coins of the Emperors, I have ſeen four or five in Silver, among which was a well-preſerved Medal of *Corauſius*; and the following Imperial ones in Braſs; *Auguſtus*, *Tiberius*, *Claudius*, *Nero*, *Veſpaſian*, *Titus*, *Domitian*, *Trajan*, *Hadrian*, *Antoninus*, *M. Aurelius*, *L. Verus*, *Commodus*, *Sept. Severus*, *Geta*, *Alexander Severus*, *Maximim.* *Gordian* the Son, a beautiful Medal of the large Braſs; the Reverſe, *Pietas Augg.* with the ſacrificing Veſſels, *&c.* *Pupienus*, *Gordianus Pius*; a fine Coin in large Braſs of *Otacilla*, the Wife of *Philip*, *Gallienus*, *Poſtumus*, *Claudius Gothicus*, *Aurelian*, *Dioclesian*, *Conſtantine* the Great, and his Sons, a vaſt Number of *Conſtantius*, (who had for his Lot the Eaſtern Diviſion of the Empire. This great Abundance of his Coins ſhews the *Balearians* of that Age

to

to have carried on a conſiderable Trade to the *Levant*) *Valens*, *Arcadius*, and *Honorius*.

Under theſe two laſt, *Arcadius* and *Honorius*, the *Roman* Empire was ſhook with terrible Convulſions by the ſucceſsful Irruptions of the barbarous Nations, and this Iſland becoming the Property of the Conquerors, declined in its foreign Commerce, and ſunk in Figure; and few Coins of the Succeſſors to thoſe Maſters of the World, enumerated in the preceding Catalogue, are found here.

I now proceed to the laſt General Head of the Antiquities of *Minorca*, the Remains of the *Moors*.

Of *Mount-Agatha*, and the antient Buildings of the *Moors*, ſtill remaining there, I have already ſaid enough in a former Letter; I have alſo told you, that Part of the Wall that encloſes *Ciudadella* at this Day, was of their Workmanſhip, and I think *Mahon* appears to have ſome Obligations of the ſame Kind to this People.

However barbarous the firſt *Mahometans* were eſteemed by their Enemies, it is to them the World is indebted for the Way of Building, which goes under the Appellation of the *Gothic* Stile, (as the *Italians* called whatever was not after the *Roman* Stile) and which ſhould certainly be called the *Saracen* Stile, (as the *Goths* were rather Deſtroyers than Builders) the better to mark the Inventors of it.

Theſe

Theſe People, in the Midſt of their Conqueſt, built them Moſques and other Edifices, deviſing a Manner of Architecture ſuitable to their Force and the Hurry they were in, and hewed their Stone into portable Maſſes, none exceeding the Burthen of a Camel; and thus, as their Stile itſelf was diminutive, ſo were the Parts of which their Fabricks were compoſed *.

The *Chriſtians* learned this Manner in the Time of the *Croiſades*, and ſpread it through *Italy*, *Spain*, *France*, *England*, and the reſt of *Europe*.

I preſume that moſt of the Watch-Towers all round the Coaſt were likewiſe the Work of the ſame Nation, as it is probable many of the ſmall Caſtles were, that are ſo plentifully diſperſed all over the Country. Every Individual, that was the Owner of the Land, was, I ſuppoſe, under a Neceſſity of making his ordinary Dwelling capable of Defence againſt the frequent Invaſions of thoſe turbulent Times; as the numerous Caſtles in the Borders of *England* and *Scotland* were built to ſecure the Inhabitants from the daily Inroads and Depredations of their reſtleſs Neighbours.

I have here thrown together all that I have had an Opportunity of obſerving that regarded the Antiquities of the Iſland of *Minorca*,

* See *Parentalia*, p. 297.

norca, and now I put an End to your Trouble, with aſſuring you, that

I am,

SIR,

Your, &c.

P. S. I have mentioned an *Arabick* Inſcription at *Agatha*, Page 59; there is one in *Gothic* Characters, over an Arch near the Eaſt End of the Great Church of *Mahon*, which, for Method's Sake, I have reſerved for this Place, as it does not properly come under any of the three Heads of the Antiquities of the Iſland; and that you may the better underſtand it, I will give it you in a Character that is ſomewhat more familiar to you, as follows;

XVI..... FEBROARII·
ANNO· DNI· MCCLXXXVI·
PO·PRESA·LA·YLA·DE·MENORCA
RNAM·
NOS· BON· REY· D'ARRAGO. †

This is as exact as I have been able to take it, and tho' it is imperfect, there is enough remaining to inform you, that the Inſcription was ſet up as a Memorial to Poſterity, in Honour of *Alphonſo*, *the good King of Arragon*,

Arragon, who *took the Iſland of Minorca* on the *Sixteenth of February*, *Anno Domini*, *One Thouſand Two Hundred and Eighty-ſix*.

This Inſcription contradicts the *Balearick* Hiſtorians, * who affirm, that King *Alphonſo* finiſhed the Conqueſt of the Iſland, and had Mount *Agatha* ſurrendered to him by the *Moors*, on the Seventeenth of *January*, 1287. I ſhall not pretend to reconcile the Hiſtorians to the Maſon, on this Occaſion, but content myſelf with having barely hinted this to your Memory.

LETTER XVII.

SIR, MINORCA, 9 *June*, 1742.

I Do not love to be importunate, and I always thought the teizing a Friend to fulfil his Engagements, and keep his Word, was a bad Compliment to his Sincerity. Yet I may be allowed to mention my Wearineſs of this Country, without Reproach either to your Memory or your Zeal. I know you will get me out of it when you can, and that you wiſh for the Power to do it ſuddenly and agreeably, with as much Ardour as I can poſſibly feel on the Occaſion.

I would not have you entertain the leaſt Suſpicion, that my Impatience in this exiled State ariſes from any Inconſtancy of Temper, or a Love of roving, which really proceeds

* P. 89, 90.

from

from a Train of ſerious Reflections. Here my Youth paſſes in Obſcurity and Indolence; my little Uſefulneſs is loſt; my Friends grow old, and my Pretenſions (amongſt other Things of ſmall Account) are forgot; whilſt my Juniors are promoted by being on the Scene; and my Letters make but little Impreſſion in my Abſence.

If it were not for the Intereſt of my Fame and Fortune to return to *England*, I could paſs my Days in this Iſland without any other Regret, than my being obliged to live at a Diſtance from my old Friends, a ſmall, but ſelect Sett: For here all the Neceſſaries, and many of the Elegancies of Life are within the Reach of my Purſe; the Climate is grown eaſy to me, and the Diviſions of my Time bring about a Revolution of Study and Amuſement, that if it does not amount to perfect Happineſs (if there is any ſuch Thing on this Side the Grave) yet makes a tolerable *Something*, in which Time ſlides away, without being either tedious or irkſome.

I have a good Houſe, decently furniſhed, *Iliacis erepta ruinis*; I riſe early, and breakfaſt generally alone, then read, write, or draw, till Noon. It is then Time to dreſs, after which I walk till Dinner is ready, at a Public-Houſe, at One; where eight of us, who like one another, eat very well for 12s. a Week, finding our own Wine, which coſts only three halfpence a Bottle, and is very good. After Dinner, we walk again, or make

make a Party at Cards, or to the Gardens, and ſo to Supper at Eight o'Clock.

Thus our Time rolls on in Gaiety and good Humour: Having no Buſineſs of our own, we are too much of Triflers to think of that of other People, and we are too buſy to loſe a ſingle Moment on ſuch a Trifle as Politics. Spleen and Care ſeldom aſſociate with red Coats; and if we can keep out of Debt, wear good Linen, and find a *Moidore* left at the End of a Muſter, we reckon ourſelves Oeconomiſts.

If I were not to mention the Ladies, a Gentleman of your Gallantry would have Cauſe to be offended. In the Commerce with them, two Things are requiſite, an open Hand, and a cloſe Mouth; and I venture to ſay, little elſe is neceſſary here to accompliſh a ſucceſsful Lover, or what the *French* call *Un homme a bonnes fortunes.*

There is ſcarce an Officer among us whoſe Houſe does not afford a ſpare Bed for his Friends, and if your Inclination or Occaſions require your Stay for a Month or ſix Weeks together in another Garriſon, you are treated from Houſe to Houſe with great Chearfulneſs, and with a Plenty of Cheer, that ſurprizes one who conſtantly hears heavy Complaints of the Scarcity and Badneſs of the Proviſions.

At our Meſs we ſeldom dine without a Soup and a Diſh of Fiſh, with a Couple of other Things, as a Piece of Beef, a Joint of Mutton,

Mutton, a Turkey, Gooſe, Ducks, Fowls, wild and tame Rabbets, a Pudding or a Pye, in their Turns, with Plenty of Roots, Greens and Fruit, all according to the Seaſon.

We have very good *French* Bread; our Cheeſe comes from *England*, and our Butter from *Ireland*; from which laſt Country we are alſo ſupplied with Salt Beef for the Troops, which furniſhes us with an excellent Diſh for Variety, Neats Tongues and Potatoes.

We are apt now and then, for want of other Diſcourſe, to complain of the Hardneſs of our Duty. It is true, the Heat of the Climate indiſpoſes us to Action; and it is impoſſible to rouſe us from our Indolence, without putting ſomewhat of this Kind into our Heads: Yet, to ſpeak honeſtly, one undergoes more Hardſhip and Fatigue in one Day's Shooting, which we call a Diverſion, than in three Weeks of the ſtricteſt Duty an Officer is put to in the common Courſe of our Service.

We have good Opportunities furniſhed us of correſponding with our Friends in *England*, by the two Packets that run between *Mahon* and *Marſeilles*, and ſometimes bring our Letters to us in twelve or fifteen Days after they are wrote; we have the *French* Papers by the ſame Means, and are alſo ſupplied with many Neceſſaries, which we ſhould be much puzzled to procure otherwiſe: Cloaths, Malt-Li-

quor, Cyder, Books, and a long *et cætera*, come by the *London* Ships.

In *June*, *July*, *Auguſt*, and Part of *September*, the Weather is exceſſively hot; and then we keep as much in the Shade as we can. The Rains follow, and as ſoon as they are over, our rambling begins, and we have in general very fine Weather till the Summer comes on again; and I cannot cloſe the Paragraph, without aſſuring you, that for near nine Months of the Year this is the fineſt Climate I ever knew; but the hot Months are intolerable, and make Life a Burthen.

You muſt perceive I treat you honeſtly in what I ſay of the Climate of *Minorca*; ſo I ſhould do, if I wrote from the frigid or the torrid Zone. Yet Hiſtorians groſsly impoſe upon us in this Particular, and you can ſcarcely read of any Country in the World, that is not ſeated in a charming mild Climate, neither too hot in Summer, nor too cold in Winter; as *China* is not too hot, ſays one, though the *Europeans* are obliged to lie many Hours a Day in Water, as Cattle ſometimes do in *England*, in the Months of *June* and *July*.

Another gravely aſſures his Readers, that *New-England* is not a Jot too cold, though many of the Natives loſe their Fingers and Toes, by their being frozen, and ſome are actually froze to Death every Winter.

This Partiality, that ſo ſtrongly carries away the Generality of Authors, to magnify the

the favourable Circumſtances that relate to the Country they write of, and at the ſame Time diſpoſes them to ſoften, or explain away, the Inconveniencies and Diſadvantages that attend it, I have endeavoured to exclude from theſe Letters; and I am not without Hopes, that you will acquit me from the leaſt Imputation of having miſrepreſented the *Minorquins*, or their Iſland, from any ſuch Motive, or indeed from any Motive whatever.

And now, Sir, my Task draws to a Period. If your Indulgence to me had been leſs, my Preſumption would not have been ſo great, and I ſhould have contented myſelf with writing you ſuch Matters only as I judged capable of conducing to ſatisfy your Curioſity concerning the Iſland of *Minorca*, which merits a better Hiſtorian; inſtead of running out of my Way, as I confeſs I have done, in ſeveral Places, to pleaſe myſelf, and indulge my Imagination.

I can only ſay, in Excuſe for theſe Excurſions, that they helped to relieve the inevitable Tediouſneſs of ſo dry a Subject; and I flatter myſelf, that as they are neither very long, nor too thick ſown, nor, I hope, very impertinent, you will not wholly condemn me, for having allowed them a Place in the Courſe of our Correſpondence.

I need not put you in Mind, that I have been obliged to paſs over ſeveral Things ſuperficially enough, though they highly deſerved, and really required, to be more critically

cally considered: Some out of a Diffidence of my own Judgment, where Judgment was required; many more for want of Knowledge, as I very freely confess, and the necessary Books to instruct me.

You will discover these Particulars but too readily, and therefore I will wave the uncomfortable Trouble of pointing them out to you. You will pardon them too, I am sure; for I know your Candor to be equal to your Discernment. What I have done, was enjoined by you, and performed for your Satisfaction, and it is now submitted to your Censure, by,

SIR,

Your, &c.

FINIS.

APPENDIX.

The Copy of a LETTER *from an Officer at* MINORCA, *to his Friend in* LONDON.

DEAR SIR,

THE Preparations which the *French* are making at *Toulon*, for an Expedition to be undertaken for the Conqueſt of this Iſland, are no Secret: Nor were they intended to be kept from the Knowledge of the World; ſince they have been at as much Pains to render them publick, as they were accuſtomed to take for the Concealment of their Deſigns. When the firſt Reports of theſe Preparations reached us, we were in ſome Meaſure alarmed, as many Things, which though they were of no great Conſequence, yet were neceſſary to enable us to make a proper Defence, were to be immediately ſet about; and we were in ſome Concern leſt the Enemy might be upon us before we were fully prepared for their Reception: But as their Proceedings are drawn out to ſuch a Length, they have given us perfect Leiſure to put every Thing here into ſuch a Poſture, as leaves us no Apprehenſions on their Account; and our Spirits are ſo good, our Garriſon ſo hearty, and our Supplies ſo ample, that if our Works do not defend us, and we

our Works, until we can be relieved by ſtrong Hand, we deſerve to be buried in their Ruins.

But, to deal plainly with you, my old Friend, I do not think the *French* are one Jot more ſincere in their Declarations at this Time, than they have conſtantly been on all other Occaſions: Their real Deſign, in all the Pother they have affected to make about us, I think no other, at the Bottom, than an Artifice to divide our Naval Force, and weaken our Fleet in thoſe Stations where they do not like they ſhould continue, to be a Check to their ambitious Views, and a formidable Barrier between them and His Majeſty's *Britiſh* and *American* Dominions.

I am further of Opinion, that if they were even landed on the Iſland, not one Man of a hundred of the Natives would join them; and this for many good Reaſons. When General *Stanhope* reduced the Garriſon of *St. Philip*'s Caſtle to capitulate, in 1708, all the Inhabitants agreed to ſubmit themſelves to King *Charles* III. But it is to be conſidered, that this Prince had a ſtrong Party among them, was eſteemed by them as the equitable Succeſſor to the *Spaniſh* Crown, and was oppoſed by *Philip*, claiming under what they thought a forged Title, and ſupported by the Arms of *France*. The Caſe is far otherwiſe now; the *French* are far from having a Party here to eſpouſe their Cauſe. The very Turn and Genius of the two Nations, tend to keep them

them at Variance; nor has there ever been a real Cordiality between them: Beſides, as the Iſland was ceded to *Great-Britain* by the Treaty of *Utrecht*, and has remained quietly in our Poſſeſſion for more than forty Years; they have had ſo much Experience of the Lenity of our Government; have been made ſo eaſy in their Religion; and in every other Particular, the Terms of their Capitulation have been ſo punctually complied with; and they have found ſo certain Redreſs of whatever Grievances they complained of, by their Agents at the *Britiſh* Court; and are ſo vaſtly enriched by the immenſe Sums that have been ſent into their Country, for the Payment of the Troops, and for the Works that have been erected at *St. Philip's*, that I am confident there are few or none of them, but would look upon it as the greateſt Misfortune that could befal them, to exchange their preſent happy State, for the ſervile, ſordid Condition of *French* Subjects.

Theſe People have a great Meaſure of Sagacity, and as of late they have enjoyed a Proportion of Trade, by no Means deſpicable, many of them have had Opportunities of obſerving the Oppreſſions under which their Neighbours all round them groan, from the arbitrary Tyranny of their Government. Theſe Conſiderations, together with the Protection of our Flag againſt the Corſairs of *Barbary*, (an Advantage no other People in theſe Parts enjoy) have highly endeared us to them,

them, notwithſtanding the Difference in Religion, in which too they enjoy the ſame Freedom, in all Reſpects, as when they were ſubject to the Crown of *Spain*.

Thus have I given you my Opinion, together with the Reaſons upon which it is grounded; from all which I conclude, that either the *French* have no real Purpoſe of making a Deſcent upon the Iſland, but that their View is to divide our Fleet; or that if they ſhould attempt us at this Time, they would be ſorely repulſed, without effecting any Thing material, and retire ſhamefully, leaving the greateſt Part of their Army behind them. Whoever is well enough acquainted with the Subject, to be able to compare the Diſpoſition of the Natives, and the Strength of this Iſland, as they were in 1708, with what they are at this Day, will, I am confident, ſubſcribe to my Opinion in every Particular; and to ſuch I leave it (and there are many ſuch now in *London*) to ſatisfy thoſe that are utter Strangers to both.

I am ever,

MINORCA, 27 *Feb.* 1756.

DEAR SIR,

10 JA 67

Your, &c.